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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Gracious God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

Throughout history, You have been ever-present to all believers. In times of darkness, we readily turn on lights. Millions of Americans in this season have variously turned to the celebration of Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights, and the Advent and Christmas season with its trees and lights.

Even so, in our political world, there remains the reality of considerable disagreement and contention. Where there is darkness here, send forth a spark of inspiration and grace to enlighten minds and warm hearts to respond to Your love for Your people.

Eternal Father of us all, fill Your children with the delight that comes from light. May we walk no longer in the darkness of distrust but join together in mutual understanding and peace toward the common well-being of our Nation.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to section 4(a) of House Resolution 967, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Ms. SHERRILL) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. SHERRILL led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

PASS ANOTHER ROUND OF HELP

(Ms. SHERRILL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SHERRILL. Madam Speaker, it has been more than 250 days since we passed the CARES Act, and it is past time that we pass a second round.

When this pandemic hit, despite being in one of the most partisan times in our Nation's history, we came together in Congress to pass badly needed help for the American people: PPP loans for small businesses; State and local funding to help with contact tracing, testing, and grants to those in need.

We passed an eviction moratorium so people could stay in their homes and nutrition aid for the millions of families who suddenly are experiencing food insecurity.

Now that we have good news about vaccines, now that we have hope for the future, we have to pass another round of help so businesses can make it through the winter, children can have access to food, families can stay in their homes, and kids can get back to school.

There is a bipartisan deal that the Senate and House Members are on board with, a deal that would provide relief to millions.

Let's once again show the American people that we are there for them when it counts.

HONORING THE CAREER OF LISA PITTMAN

(Mr. BISHOP of Utah asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I called Lisa Pittman, who is the counsel for our committee, to make sure we had somebody covering us for floor time.

She chastised me then, saying that under my condition, I need to ask about calling a doctor first, not calling a lawyer.

No, Lisa, we call you not just for legal advice but for all sorts of things. For 38 years, she has been a true public servant, with 33 consecutive years here in the House where she has served with poise under pressure and always brings an air of stability.

We ask opinions of a lot of people, but we always double-check by going to Lisa because she understands it all.

She served under 17 Republican leaders in Natural Resources. I still think I am her favorite one—trust me. But even yesterday, she still told my chief of staff that she gets choked up when she looks at the Capitol dome or hears the Pledge of Allegiance. It is still magical to her.

As our committee mom, when she brings cupcakes to everyone on their birthdays and special occasions, her kindness is magic to the rest of us.

So, when I leave at the end of the month, no one is really going to care. When Lisa leaves at the end of the month, it is going to take decades to replace the institutional knowledge that she brings to this place.

Lisa, we thank you. And, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate your indulgence.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SENATOR PAUL SARBANES

(Ms. PELOSI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I join Members of the Maryland delegation in praising a great man, Paul Sarbanes.

The people of Maryland and all Americans have lost a leader and a public servant of dignity and principle, Senator Paul Sarbanes.

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His 40 years of tireless service as a member of the Maryland House of Delegates, the House of Representatives, and the U.S. Senate strengthened our Nation and made a difference in the lives of countless Americans.

In Congress, Paul Sarbanes was respected by his colleagues on both sides of the aisle for his humility, tenacity, and brilliant intellect.

It was a source of great pride for me that his congressional career began in the same House seat which was held by my father years before.

All Marylanders can take pride in Paul Sarbanes' leadership as a defender of our American democracy on the Judiciary Committee and his tireless work to bring integrity, transparency, and oversight to Washington as chair of the Banking Committee.

May it be a comfort to Senator Sarbanes' children, Michael, Janet, and our colleague, Congressman JOHN SARBANES, and the entire Sarbanes family that Senator Sarbanes, Paul, is with his beautiful wife, Christine. They are together in Heaven.

May it be of comfort that so many mourn their loss and are praying for them at this sad time.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CHARLES ''CHUCKIE'' DABELLA, JR.

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Charles DaBella, Jr., known to his family and friends as Chuckie.

Chuckie was a resident of Hastings, Cambria County, Pennsylvania. He passed away at the age of 52 this summer on June 29 after a devastating motorcycle accident.

Chuckie's sister, Charlene, said: ''Chuck was an amazing soldier, brother, father, and son.''

His military legacy is one that he and his family can certainly and forever be proud of. Chuckie was a retired Army infantryman with 13 years of service. He was with the 3rd Special Forces Group, a Green Beret, senior parachutist, and Army range qualified, earning the bronze German Armed Forces Badge of Marksmanship.

Chuckie was also the recipient of four Purple Hearts and the Bronze Star.

The pain that comes from the loss of a loved one never truly fades, but I want the DaBella family to know that they are in my thoughts, and my prayers are with them during this incredibly difficult time. We are proud of the service and legacy that Chuckie has left.

May God watch over Chuck, who left us far too soon.

MAKE SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE BUILDING A NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

(Mr. HALL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak a truth, and that truth is quite simple. I stand on the shoulders of giants.

I hail from Atlanta, which is the home of the King Center, a place dedicated to the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., one of America's greatest citizens. We honor him with a Federal holiday and memorial on our National Mall, just outside of this Chamber.

I am also the heir to the seat held by the late, great John Lewis. Congressman Lewis was by Dr. King's side, and Congressman Lewis dedicated his life to peaceful nonviolence.

Congressman Lewis was a beacon in this Chamber for the dozens of years that he served. It is one of the greatest honors of my life to be able to complete the term for which he was last elected and take the baton and bring his service across the finish line.

But I would be remiss if I did not use this opportunity to make sure their lessons are known for generations to come.

That is why it is critical that we make sure we preserve the buildings in metro Atlanta that give life to their work. We must establish the former headquarters of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, where Dr. King did his work alongside Congressman Lewis, as a National Historic Site.

If we do this, we can do our small part to ensure that those who follow in our footsteps do so mindful of the example of these giants of the civil rights movement.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JIMMY ORR

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor Mr. Jimmy Orr of Brunswick, Georgia, who recently passed away after a long and impactful life.

Jimmy was a gifted athlete who excelled in basketball, baseball, and football in high school and went on to attend Clemson University on a basketball scholarship.

He later transferred to the University of Georgia to become one of the Wally Boys, which was a term used for those who played under football Head Coach Wally Butts.

During his junior year at the University of Georgia, Jimmy was initially drafted by the Los Angeles Rams and was later traded to the Pittsburgh Steelers after graduation.

His exceptional performance made him an easy choice for United Press International and Associated Press Rookie of the Year in 1958.

After Jimmy's outstanding 13-year career with the NFL, he eventually led several successful business ventures before retiring to the Georgia coast, where he held a successful golfing record.

He was not only an amazing athlete; he was a loving father and husband, a wonderful friend, and a generous philanthropist who impacted the lives of countless individuals.

I am thankful for Jimmy's many years of representing Brunswick well, and I know his legacy will continue for many years to come.

EDUCATE PEOPLE ON BENEFITS OF VITAMIN D

(Mr. GROTHMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have spoken on vitamin D a bit in the past, and I know we are on the verge of passing another coronavirus bill.

I would ask people negotiating that bill to do something to make sure that the public is aware of the benefits of vitamin D.

Yesterday, I talked to a Dr. David Meltzer at the University of Chicago, a very brilliant man, and I hope some of the negotiators talk to him before a final deal is cut.

While he cannot nail down a specific amount of people who will not have to suffer the severe consequences of vitamin D deficiency, or even die at the hands of vitamin D, it is probably somewhere between 40 and 70 percent. Right now, about half of Americans have a vitamin D deficiency. That is going to get worse as we head into the winter months and people are not outside getting vitamin D.

So, I strongly request the negotiators to do something to make sure that we stand up to the public health establishment and educate people on the importance of vitamin D and see what we can do about getting products to the market which accelerate getting vitamin D into your bloodstream, because even if you start taking vitamin D tomorrow, you don't get the level that you should have for quite a while.

I am encouraging the negotiators to talk to Dr. David Meltzer, who will also fill you in on studies from Ireland, Spain, MIT, Harvard, and Northwestern.

□ 0915

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT COLONEL AMANDA NAYLOR

(Mr. WALTZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WALTZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize someone very special on my team, a real-life superwoman, a

warrior, a hard worker, an Air Force lieutenant colonel, and—perhaps her most important job—a mother of five. Her name is Amanda Naylor, and she has been part of my office for her year-long Defense fellowship.

Amanda took the hustle and bustle of Capitol Hill in stride. She made it look easy. She hit the ground running, and whether it was committee hearings, briefings with Defense Department officials, or working with other offices, Amanda was always there to provide our team expertise and drive issues forward.

She used her own experience in the military and the Air Force to craft legislation like the Rent the Camo Act that provided affordable maternity uniforms for our servicewomen. It is truly a testament to her insight and her hard work that she got this bill into the NDAA, into the defense bill. She is a perfect example of why we need more veterans in Congress and more veterans in government at every level. They bring that on-the-ground expertise into our legislation.

Amanda is talented, smart, and, above all, kind. Congress could certainly use more like her. I am sad she will be leaving us, but she has made our office and she will make the country a better and safer place.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

DRIFTNET MODERNIZATION AND BYCATCH REDUCTION ACT

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 906) to improve the management of driftnet fishing.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 906

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Driftnet Modernization and Bycatch Reduction Act''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITION.

Section 3(25) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1802(25)) is amended by inserting '', or with a mesh size of 14 inches or greater,'' after ''more''.

SEC. 3. FINDINGS AND POLICY.

(a) FINDINGS.—Section 206(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1826(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (6), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in paragraph (7), by striking the period and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(8) within the exclusive economic zone, large-scale driftnet fishing that deploys nets with large mesh sizes causes significant entanglement and mortality of living marine resources, including myriad protected species, despite limitations on the lengths of such nets.''.

(b) POLICY.—Section 206(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1826(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in paragraph (3), by striking the period and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following—

''(4) prioritize the phase out of large-scale driftnet fishing in the exclusive economic zone and promote the development and adoption of alternative fishing methods and gear types that minimize the incidental catch of living marine resources.''.

SEC. 4. TRANSITION PROGRAM.

Section 206 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1826) is amended by adding at the end the following—

''(i) FISHING GEAR TRANSITION PROGRAM.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—During the 5-year period beginning on the date of enactment of the Driftnet Modernization and Bycatch Reduction Act, the Secretary shall conduct a transition program to facilitate the phase-out of large-scale driftnet fishing and adoption of alternative fishing practices that minimize the incidental catch of living marine resources, and shall award grants to eligible permit holders who participate in the program.

''(2) PERMISSIBLE USES.—Any permit holder receiving a grant under paragraph (1) may use such funds only for the purpose of covering—

''(A) any fee originally associated with a permit authorizing participation in a large-scale driftnet fishery, if such permit is surrendered for permanent revocation, and such permit holder relinquishes any claim associated with the permit;

''(B) a forfeiture of fishing gear associated with a permit described in subparagraph (A); or

''(C) the purchase of alternative gear with minimal incidental catch of living marine resources, if the fishery participant is authorized to continue fishing using such alternative gears.

''(3) CERTIFICATION.—The Secretary shall certify that, with respect to each participant in the program under this subsection, any permit authorizing participation in a large-scale driftnet fishery has been permanently revoked and that no new permits will be issued to authorize such fishing.''.

SEC. 5. EXCEPTION.

Section 307(1)(M) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1857(1)(M)) is amended by inserting before the semicolon the following: '', unless such large-scale driftnet fishing—

''(i) deploys, within the exclusive economic zone, a net with a total length of less than two and one-half kilometers and a mesh size of 14 inches or greater; and

''(ii) is conducted within 5 years of the date of enactment of the Driftnet Modernization and Bycatch Reduction Act''.

SEC. 6. FEES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The North Pacific Fishery Management Council may recommend, and the Secretary of Commerce may approve, regulations necessary for the collection of fees from charter vessel operators who guide recreational anglers who harvest Pacific halibut in International Pacific Halibut Commission regulatory areas 2C and 3A as those terms are defined in part 300 of title 50, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations).

(b) USE OF FEES.—Any fees collected under this section shall be available, without appropriation or fiscal year limitation, for the purposes of—

(1) financing administrative costs of the Recreational Quota Entity program;

(2) the purchase of halibut quota shares in International Pacific Halibut Commission regulatory areas 2C and 3A by the recreational quota entity authorized in part 679 of title 50, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations);

(3) halibut conservation and research; and

(4) promotion of the halibut resource by the recreational quota entity authorized in part 679 of title 50, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN)?

There was no objection.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud today to speak in favor of the Driftnet Modernization and Bycatch Reduction Act. This was sent to us by the Senate on voice vote and sponsored by California Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN.

I applaud our colleagues in the Senate for sending us meaningful bipartisan bills—for a change—that were overwhelmingly improved. I hope my colleagues in the House will join me in this bipartisan effort to conserve our oceans and wildlife.

I would also like to applaud the recreational fishing and conservation community for their leadership on this bill.

Large-scale drift gillnets—or driftnets, as they are called—are wasteful, and they are an outdated type of fishing gear. At 2 kilometers long, their purpose is to simply drift along through ocean currents and catch whatever they may find in their long webbing.

The only large-scale driftnet fishery in the country today is the West Coast swordfish fishery, where these driftnets are used to catch swordfish and other commercially valuable species such as thresher, mako shark, and opah.

But a 2-kilometer-long net in the ocean catches far more than these target species. Driftnets are indiscriminate. They catch sea turtles, bottlenose dolphins, and short-finned pilot whales.

During the committee hearing on this bill, my Republican colleague, GARRET GRAVES, joked that California is finally catching up with his State of Louisiana because they ended driftnet fishing in 1995, to which I say: Good for Louisiana. Elsewhere around the world,

driftnets have been banned due to the high rate of bycatch.

This important legislation would amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to direct the Secretary of Commerce to conduct a transition program to phase out the use of these large-scale driftnets and to facilitate the adoption of alternative fishing gear.

This transition program is supported by key stakeholders. A majority of active permit holders submitted their intent to participate in the program, and a nonprofit has invested $1 million to help these fishermen transition.

It is important to note that there really are great alternatives to drift gillnets, like deep-set buoys, which have a lower bycatch rate and can actually fetch higher market rates for fishermen.

This bill would also prohibit the use of large-scale driftnet fishing by all U.S. vessels within the U.S. exclusive economic zone within 5 years.

Let's join the rest of the world and end the use of drift gillnets. The Senate passed this bill in July, and I urge my colleagues in the House to do the same now.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, we have before us today a bill that will very effectively put most swordfish boats on the West Coast out of business. I believe it is yet another battle on a multifront war by the far-left Democrats against America's working class.

The swordfish boats on the West Coast harvest a Pacific fishery that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has classified as ''underutilized.'' There is no shortage of swordfish thanks to the responsible management of this fishery under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

The principal means of harvesting swordfish is the drift gillnet, which has been a target of environmental extremists for years. Despite their lurid tales of indiscriminate catches of other species, particularly endangered species, this is, in fact, a very rare occurrence.

With respect to endangered species, the National Marine Fisheries Service reported: ''It is NMFS' biological opinion that the proposed action of continued management of the drift gillnet fishery is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of these seven endangered species and is not likely to destroy or adversely modify any ESA-listed designated critical habitat.''

So here we have an industry that some of the hardest working men and women in America depend upon to feed their families—and, by the way, feed ours, as well—in an underutilized fishery by means of drift gillnets that have an extremely low incidence of inadvertent bycatch.

So what does Congress propose to do for these families? Commend them for their hard work? Thank them for the contribution they make to America's food supply and to the American economy? Well, no, not exactly. Instead, Congress proposes to shut them down.

Those aren't my words. When Gary Burke, one of the swordfishermen threatened by this bill came before our subcommittee, he said: ''I want to be very clear regarding the impacts of this legislation on the driftnet gill fleet. It will shut us down.''

And for what possible reason?

The fishery is sound; the industry is responsible; incidental takes are extremely rare. Why would anyone want to decimate these families and American consumers as well? Just for the hell of it seems to be the only logical explanation.

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act has been lauded by conservationists for many decades. It has stood the test of time and proven itself to be a program that works.

The Regional Fishery Management Council process works because it is collaborative, and it involves the parties with a direct stake in keeping the fishery healthy.

This legislation is a ham-handed, iron-fisted, top-down diktat that goes against everything that Magnuson-Stevens stands for.

Now, we just heard: Don't worry. There is an alternative that will work just fine. It is the deep-set buoy gear.

And, yes, it is sometimes used to supplement the drift gillnets, but it is not economically viable by itself.

As the actual swordfishermen explained, the costs of running a fishing vessel—fuel, debt service, and labor—often means a very tight profit margin. To make a trip viable, the boat must achieve enough of a catch to at least offset its costs.

The alternative this bill would force on them simply doesn't catch nearly as many fish and certainly not enough to make the trip profitable. Reduce the catch below the break-even mark—as this bill surely does—and there is no catch because the boat can't go out.

How do we know that? Because the very fishermen who use the deep-set buoy gear have told us so. They state in a letter to the committee: ''Our concern is based on the fact that while there is potential for alternative gear to be used in this industry, currently there is no existing gear that can be substituted for the drift gillnet and still allow fishermen to earn a living.''

Those are the people who use that equipment.

So let me repeat that: Our fishermen will not be able to earn a living using this experimental gear. The majority knows this; it is just they don't care.

This legislation does nothing to improve fisheries management but, instead, does great harm in two respects: It takes away the earnings of American fishermen, and it raises the price of seafood for American families.

Again, don't take my word for it, or even the fishermen whose livelihoods are being cast aside. The Natural Resources Committee received testimony from NOAA which stressed to our members that this bill ''does not reflect the progress made to date in minimizing bycatch in the U.S. West Coast drift gillnet fishery. Based on the best available science and 26 years of observer data, bycatch of threatened or endangered protected species is a rare event.''

Now let's talk about the unintended consequences of putting the American West Coast swordfish industry out of business.

It doesn't protect the fishery because the fishery isn't endangered. It doesn't protect other species because incidental taking of those species is rare.

The ultimate irony is that this bill doesn't even stop the use of drift gillnets except, of course, for Americans. This bill will effectively remove West Coast swordfish from the market, but it doesn't remove the market demand.

So what happens? Consumer prices will go up and the market will meet that demand by shifting to swordfish caught by foreign fleets where they are not strictly regulated and where they will enjoy an enormous competitive advantage by being unrestricted in their use of the very same drift gillnets that Americans—and only Americans—are forbidden from using.

Again, that is not my conclusion. That is the conclusion of NOAA itself, which told our committee: ''NOAA is concerned that shifting to alternative gears that are not economically viable could decrease U.S. swordfish harvest and reduce the U.S. West Coast large mesh drift gillnet fishery's competitiveness against foreign fisheries with less restrictive environmental regulations during the phaseout.''

Mr. Speaker, I urge rejection of this cruel and ill-conceived measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, for those folks who had the word ''diktat'' on their bingo card, you are a big winner today.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague for that, but when he describes this bill as extreme, overreaching, and draconian, he left out the fact that 28 of the 31 fishermen in this particular fishery have already agreed to participate in the transition program that this bill provides. My hope is that the three holdouts will take advantage of the transition assistance being offered and join the rest of their peers.

Also, when my colleague mentions far-left Democrats driving this bill, he forgets to mention the long list of Republicans in both the House and Senate who are supporting this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. CASE).

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, as the Representative of the State with one of the largest exclusive economic zones in our country and as the Representative of the State that sits in the middle of the Pacific where we are seeing increasing

overfishing, including the use of these techniques throughout our Pacific, I rise in very strong support of the Driftnet Modernization and Bycatch Reduction Act. This bipartisan legislation is necessary to transition fairly an important West Coast fishery away from the use of large mesh driftnets.

I want to commend, in addition to Senator FEINSTEIN and the Republican cosponsors, Congressman LIEU on our side for his work on the bill in the House.

Yes, this fishery is small, with less than 20 participants, but it is one of the most destructive. The use of mile-long driftnets results in over 70 species caught in volume as bycatch.

The problems with this practice are nothing new. Beginning in the 1980s, Congress and the Republican and first Bush administration recognized its destruction and worked together to reform the practice, culminating with the near complete global moratorium on the practice.

Today, the large mesh driftnets that continue to be used in Federal waters along the West Coast are the last of their kind in the Nation. This bill closes that loophole and phases out the practice.

□ 0930

Fortunately, new fishing technology has been developed that catches swordfish at a profitable level without the huge levels of bycatch associated with driftnets. That is good for fishermen, good for consumers, and good for the marine environment.

All West Coast States have already acted to prohibit this type of fishing from their shores and their oceans. It is time we, at the Federal level, act to do the same to ensure the sustainability of this fishery and the sustainability of the bycatch fisheries. Transitioning away from large-mesh driftnets is supported by recreational fishermen, conservation groups, seafood purveyors, and consumers, and it just makes sense.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support for this bipartisan, bicameral bill.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter from the California fishermen who participated in the experimental technology demonstration project expressing their concerns with the bill.

MAY 6, 2019.

Re: H.R. 1979—Driftnet Modernization and Bycatch Reduction Act

Hon. TED LIEU,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN LIEU: We are participants in the experimental Deep-Set Buoy Gear (''DSBG'') fishery off the California Coast. A majority of us participate in, or have participated in, the drift gillnet fishery. We are writing to express our concerns regarding H.R. 1979, the Driftnet Modernization and Bycatch Reduction Act. H.R. 1979 includes language which will phase-out the use of drift gillnets (''DGN'') to harvest swordfish and require the ''. . . adoption of alternative fishing practices that minimize the incidental catch of living marine resources''. Our concern is based on the fact that while there is potential for alternative gear to be used in this fishery, currently there is no existing gear that can be substituted for the DGN gear and still allow fishermen to earn a living.

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (''PFMC'') is currently working towards authorizing Deep-Set Buoy Gear (''DSBG''), a swordfish gear type that was developed to provide west coast fishers with an additional gear option for use during periods of reduced landings. DSBG has been allowed to operate under an Exempted Fishing Permit (''EFP'') since 2015. As noted in the initial EFP application DSBG was designed to ''. . . provide fishers with a complementary gear type that can be used in conjunction with harpooning . . . . and also compliment ongoing DGN activities.''

Participants in the initial EFP had extensive experience targeting swordfish with DGN and harpoon gears and participated in the research trials so that they could expand domestic fishery options for the West Coast. This continues to be a priority for managers and the fishing community, as current restrictions limit summertime harvest off California waters, forcing markets to import swordfish even when the resource is available in local waters. The coupling of DSBG, harpoon and DGN techniques provides the tools needed to capitalize on this federal resource throughout the entire fishery season. This is critical given that different gear types have different seasons in which they work optimally.

Because DSBG landings peak in the months prior to that of the DGN fishery, our community has largely supported the advent and trial of new techniques, as they have the potential to augment and revitalize our declining fishery. Now that H.R. 1979 proposes to phase out DGN and replace it with DSBG, we are concerned that this will further impact the viability of west coast swordfish operations all together. We are certain that the DGN market share will be filled with additional unregulated foreign-caught swordfish. As shown in 2018, increases in unregulated imports drives market price down, reduces domestic profitability and deters participation our US fisheries. Collectively, we feel that H.R. 1979 will negatively impact local livelihoods, increase our reliance upon foreign fleets and decrease the productivity and of our west coast fishery.

We are also concerned over the proposed transition of the traditional DGN fleet to a future DSBG fishery. Some of the DGN vessels are larger than those currently used in the DSBG fishery and many of them only fish for swordfish during the fall window in which DGN works optimally. We are troubled that the proposed transition will create an inequity among the fleet and negatively impact fishing operations and profitability. We feel that H.R. 1979 is premature and should be contemplated only after it is demonstrated that DSBG can be profitable for the entire DGN community. Until then, we hope to continue to provide domestic west coast swordfish caught using highly regulated techniques that continue to operate in full federal and state compliance.

Sincerely,

Chugey Sepulveda, PhD, EFP Lead, Pfleger Institute of Environmental Research, Oceanside, CA; Donald Krebbs, F/V Goldcoast, San Diego, CA; Ben Stephens, F/V Tres Mujeres, Vista, CA; Freddie Hepp, F/V Plumeria, Santa Barbara, CA; William Sutton, F/V Aurelia, Ojai, CA; Nathan Perez, F/V Bear Flag II, Newport Beach, CA; Jack Stephens, F/V DEA, Vista, CA; Kelly Fukushima, F/V Three Boys, San Diego, CA.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I implore the majority to consider the damage that it will do with this bill. The West Coast swordfish fishery is healthy and, indeed, underutilized. The drift gillnet results in very little incidental take of other species. To put a number on it, in 17 years, only 10 whales interacted with these nets, and 4 of them were released alive. Six of them were killed.

Now, to put that in perspective—6 in 17 years—roughly 80 whales are killed by ships off the California coast every year. Six were killed by driftnets in 17 years; 80 are killed by ship collisions every year.

Does my friend see the difference?

Banning the nets will reduce the catch below the level that is economically viable. It will shut down the industry. The result will be devastating to the families that run these businesses. It will be harmful to the consumer who will pay higher prices for this product, and it will encourage increased use of driftnets in foreign waters to fill the shortage caused by banning them in our own.

Why in God's name would anyone want to do that?

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman has raised the issue of foreign fleets using these drift gillnets a couple of times now. Let me briefly speak to that, and I will close.

Of course, we need to do something about those bad practices by foreign fleets, but in order to do that, in order to restrict the importation of seafood that is caught through unsustainable practices by foreign fleets, we have to hold our own fleets to this higher standard of sustainability and bycatch reduction. That is what this bill and other efforts in this area are all about.

Mr. Speaker, this is a solidly bipartisan bill. I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes,'' and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Driftnet Modernization and Bycatch Reduction Act, bipartisan, bicameral legislation that would phase out the use of large mesh drift gillnets off the coast of California.

Currently, the use of gillnets with a total length of two and one-half kilometers or more is prohibited in U.S. waters. However, off the coast of California, we have seen that drift gillnet fishing gear within the legal federal limit is still having an adverse impact on our Pacific wildlife. While these mile-long gillnets are designed to catch swordfish and thresher sharks, the large mesh net frequently captures many other marine animals as bycatch, injuring or killing them in the process.

The practice of drift gillnet fishing is an antiquated method for catching swordfish and

thresher sharks, and is already banned in many states, including Washington and Oregon. It is time to adopt new fishing technology in order to set a path toward more sustainable fishing. This bill would direct the Secretary of Commerce to conduct a transition program to phase-out large mesh drift gillnet and promote the adoption of alternative fishing practices to minimize the bycatch of marine species.

Bycatch is a lingering problem in fisheries management, and such waste is especially pervasive in driftnet fisheries. We have the prime opportunity today to provide a solution that would improve fishery resource management and provide the swordfish fishery participants the needed support to transition to more selective and sustainable fishing gear. It is a win-win situation.

On July 22, 2020, the Senate passed S. 906 by unanimous consent. There is broad support for this legislation, including endorsements from the American Sportfishing Association, The Pew Charitable Trusts, Humane Society Legislative Fund, Oceana, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, and the National Marine Manufacturers Association. In the spirit of bipartisanship, I urge my colleagues in the House to join us in passing this commonsense legislation today. I would like to thank Chairman GRIJALVA, Congressman HUFFMAN, and Senator FEINSTEIN for their leadership on this issue as well as House and Senate committee staff for their hard work. I look forward to the enactment of this bill.

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 906, the Driftnet Modernization and Bycatch Reduction Act. I would like to start out by thanking Senators LISA MURKOWSKI, DAN SULLIVAN, DIANNE FEINSTEIN, and SHELLEY CAPITO, along with Congressman TED LIEU, and everyone who was involved in this legislation. Their passion for our fisheries is truly admirable.

This bill includes a Recreational Quota Entity (RQE) provision that is crucial to the charter fishing industry. Under the provision, an RQE would be allowed to purchase and hold a limited amount of halibut quota shares to augment the amount of halibut available to charters. For years, charter anglers have faced stringent restrictions as catch limits have been reduced and this provision would allow fishing charters to compete on a larger scale.

Charter fishing in Alaska is world renown and is a driving force for tourism in many towns. I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to spend a day in Seward this past summer meeting with halibut charters and hearing directly from the people in the industry. I'd also note we had a great time catching some Alaska fish.

While this bill may not be perfect, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bipartisan legislation because of the importance of the RQE provision to my home state of Alaska. This is a self-funding solution that will have a positive impact for the charter fishing industry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 906.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3 of House Resolution 965, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

ROBERT E. LEE STATUE REMOVAL ACT

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 970) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to develop a plan for the removal of the monument to Robert E. Lee at the Antietam National Battlefield, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 970

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Robert E. Lee Statue Removal Act''.

SEC. 2. REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL OF MONUMENT.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the National Park Service, shall remove and appropriately dispose of the Monument to General Robert E. Lee at the Antietam National Battlefield.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN) and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material in the matter under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 970 introduced by my friend, Representative BROWN of Maryland, a member of the Committee on Natural Resources and vice chair of the House Committee on Armed Services.

Mr. BROWN's bill directs the National Park Service to remove a statue of Robert E. Lee from the Antietam National Battlefield in Maryland. This 24-foot statue of General Lee was dedicated in 2003, 138 years after the end of the Civil War. It was commissioned and placed by a private citizen on private land that the National Park Service later acquired in 2005.

As our Nation continues to wrestle and reckon with racial inequality and injustice, it is past time that we take stock of these symbols that we display and the stories that we tell about our past, present, and future.

For example, the statue at issue here is not historically accurate and it simply serves to glorify the ''Lost Cause'' narrative. It does not belong on a national battlefield.

I thank Representative BROWN for his hard work in bringing attention to this issue, and I urge swift passage of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to fill in for the ranking member of the full committee, Representative BISHOP. He was here briefly earlier, but he is definitely under the weather.

Mr. Speaker, on this bill, I simply yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. BROWN).

Mr. BROWN of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California, my good friend, Mr. HUFFMAN, for yielding time. I also thank Chairman GRIJALVA and the staff on the Committee on Natural Resources for their work and partnership on H.R. 970, the Robert E. Lee Statue Removal Act.

Mr. Speaker, my bill, which I first introduced last Congress, would remove the statue of Confederate General Robert E. Lee from Antietam National Battlefield in Sharpsburg, Maryland. Antietam was the site of immense bloodshed during the Civil War.

After 12 hours of combat, 23,000 Union and Confederate soldiers were killed, wounded, or missing. It remains the bloodiest day in American history, and thousands come every year to learn about the war over slavery that almost divided our Union.

On this Federal land stands a 24-foot statue of General Lee. It was commissioned with the explicit intent of honoring the Confederacy and glorifies the Confederacy, its leaders, the cause of slavery, and open rebellion against the United States of America.

The Lee statue was built by a private citizen in 2003—as you heard, 138 years after the end of the Civil War—and later acquired by the National Park Service. It is also historically inaccurate.

The monument depicts General Lee riding to the battlefield on horseback, but the evidence shows the General actually traveled to a different part of a battlefield in an ambulance due to a broken wrist.

The monument claims that Lee was ''personally against secession and slavery.'' Yet Lee was a brutal slave owner. He fought for the Confederacy and defended the savage institution of slavery, and he led an army that kidnapped free African Americans and massacred surrendering Black Union soldiers.

Instead of teaching us the dark lessons of our history, this statue sanitizes the actions of men who fought a war to keep Black Americans in chains. This is just one monument, among many.

Throughout our history, monuments to the Confederacy have been used to

rally white supremacists and intimidate Black Americans. The majority of these monuments were built post-Reconstruction by Confederate apologists, segregationists, and opponents of civil rights.

We next saw a resurgence of statues honoring the Confederacy during the 1960s and 1970s, when white supremacists attempted to roll back the progress being made during the civil rights movement. As monuments went up, Black men, women, and children were being lynched.

Confederate monuments served as a reminder of the power that white supremacists attempted to yield and assert over Black Americans. Earlier this week, the House voted to remove the names from military bases and property that honor the Confederacy. We should take the same steps for statues honoring the Confederacy in our national public spaces.

Reckoning with our shared history and this country's past injustices doesn't dishonor the Nation; it makes it stronger. There are appropriate settings—museums, libraries, and classrooms—to teach future generations of the insidious effort to defend the violent institution of slavery. But there is no reason why any of our Nation's public spaces should have monuments that celebrate those who betrayed their country.

There is only one side in the Civil War we should be honoring, and that is of the United States. And we should celebrate figures who fought to preserve our Union and those who helped rebuild our Nation after the Civil War—the men and women who marched and protested and died for this country to live up to our founding ideals.

Removing the monument at Antietam and those across our country is not an insult to any State or region. It would simply be acknowledgment that the cause the Confederacy fought for—the cause of slavery—was wrong, that Jim Crow and violent resistance of civil rights for all people is wrong.

It is long past time for the Robert E. Lee statue on Antietam Battlefield to come down, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, before I reserve after those beautiful remarks, I include in the RECORD an email from the CBO.

From: David Hughes
Sent: Tuesday, December 1, 2020 2:51 PM
To: Lim, Sarah
Subject: Re: Suspension planning.

HI SARAH: Good to hear from you. On a preliminary basis:

H.R. 970, Robert E. Lee Removal, Brown, D–MD; no direct spending or revenue effects.

H.R. 5458, Rocky Mountain 1, Neguse, D–CO; no direct spending or revenue effects.

H.R. 5459, Rocky Mountain 2, Neguse, D–CO; no direct spending or revenue effects.

H.R. 7098, Saguaro Expansion, Grijalva, D–AZ; no direct spending or revenue effects.

H.R. 7489, Long Bridge Act of 2020, Wittman, R–VA; no revenue effects. Enacting H.R. 7489 would result in an insignificant net decrease in direct spending over the 2021–2030 period.

Best,

DAVID HUGHES,
Analyst, Congressional Budget Office.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, we were unable to get an official score, but this email confirms on a preliminary basis that all of the remaining bills have no spending effect. They also have no revenue effect, with the exception of H.R. 7489, which has a net revenue decrease.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN).

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN) for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in favor of H.R. 970, and I salute my colleague, Congressman BROWN, for his exemplary leadership on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot find a single case of any other country on Earth where monuments and memorials are put up to honor the generals of enemy forces in a civil war or any other war. Maybe another such case exists, but I can't find it. And there is no denying that there is something freakishly unusual about this practice, but you cannot blame Americans from the 19th century. In this case, you can't even blame Americans from the 20th century.

This statue of Robert E. Lee went up in 2003, not even 2 decades ago. The bizarre and stubborn impulse to honor Confederate military traitors to the Union on the very battlefield where they fought to destroy our Union and to kill our soldiers waving the Union flag reflects the hold of the so-called ''Lost Cause'' ideology, the myth which returns in times of resurgent racism, that the Confederate cause was heroic and noble, that slavery was a benevolent institution, and that treason was somehow justified.

This kind of derangement from reality and from American constitutionalism has set the pattern for a paranoid style in American politics, which continues to this very day.

Mr. Speaker, in 2020, we have a President of the United States who refuses to accept his defeat in the election by more than 7 million votes and by a margin of 306–232 in the Electoral College—a margin he declared ''a landslide'' when he won by that very same amount.

A big defender of the Confederate statues, the President from New York is busily constructing a new romantic ''Lost Cause'' mythology about his loss, despite the fact that more than 40 courts have rejected all of his claims about the election.

Mr. Speaker, let us put an end to this strange practice of honoring the military enemies of the United States. Let us put an end to the ''Lost Cause'' mythology, which has been such an abscess and such a danger to the Republic.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I simply thank my colleagues from Maryland for the eloquence and moral clarity they have brought to this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on this long overdue and much-needed legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 970, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 0945

YOUNG FISHERMEN'S DEVELOPMENT ACT

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1240) to preserve United States fishing heritage through a national program dedicated to training and assisting the next generation of commercial fishermen, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1240

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Young Fishermen's Development Act''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) SEA GRANT INSTITUTION.—The term ''Sea Grant Institution'' means a sea grant college or sea grant institute, as those terms are defined in section 203 of the National Sea Grant College Program Act (33 U.S.C. 1122).

(2) TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—The term ''Tribal organization'' has the meaning given the term ''tribal organization'' in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

(3) YOUNG FISHERMAN.—The term ''young fisherman'' means an individual who—

(A) desires to participate in the commercial fisheries of the United States, including the Great Lakes fisheries;

(B) has worked as a captain, crew member, or deckhand on a commercial fishing vessel for not more than 10 years of cumulative service; or

(C) is a beginning commercial fisherman.

SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.

The Secretary of Commerce, acting through the National Sea Grant Office, shall establish a program to provide training, education, outreach, and technical assistance initiatives for young fishermen, to be known as the ''Young Fishermen's Development Grant Program'' (referred to in this section as the ''Program'').

SEC. 4. GRANTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the Program, the Secretary shall make competitive grants to support new and established local and regional training, education, outreach, and technical assistance initiatives for young fishermen, including programs, workshops, and services relating to—

(1) seamanship, navigation, electronics, and safety;

(2) vessel and engine care, maintenance, and repair;

(3) innovative conservation fishing gear engineering and technology;

(4) sustainable fishing practices;

(5) entrepreneurship and good business practices;

(6) direct marketing, supply chain, and traceability;

(7) financial and risk management, including vessel, permit, and quota purchasing;

(8) State and Federal legal requirements for specific fisheries, including reporting, monitoring, licenses, and regulations;

(9) State and Federal fisheries policy and management;

(10) mentoring, apprenticeships, or internships; and

(11) any other activities, opportunities, or programs, as the Secretary determines appropriate.

(b) ELIGIBILITY.—

(1) APPLICANTS.—To be eligible to receive a grant under the Program, a recipient shall be a collaborative State, Tribal, local, or regionally based network or partnership of public or private entities, which may include—

(A) a Sea Grant Institution;

(B) a Federal or State agency or a Tribal organization;

(C) a community-based nongovernmental organization;

(D) fishermen's cooperatives or associations;

(E) an institution of higher education (including an institution awarding an associate's degree), or a foundation maintained by an institution of higher education; or

(F) any other appropriate entity, as the Secretary determines appropriate.

(2) PARTICIPANTS.—All young fishermen seeking to participate in the commercial fisheries of the United States and the Great Lakes are eligible to participate in the activities funded through grants provided for in this section, except that participants in such activities shall be selected by each grant recipient.

(c) MAXIMUM TERM AND AMOUNT OF GRANT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A grant under this section shall—

(A) have a term of no more than 3 fiscal years; and

(B) be in an amount that is not more than $200,000 for each fiscal year.

(2) CONSECUTIVE GRANTS.—An eligible recipient may receive consecutive grants under this section.

(d) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, a recipient shall provide a match in the form of cash or in-kind contributions from the recipient in the amount equal to or greater than 25 percent of the funds provided by the grant.

(e) REGIONAL BALANCE.—In making grants under this section, the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, ensure geographic diversity.

(f) COOPERATION AND EVALUATION CRITERIA.—In carrying out this section and in developing criteria for evaluating grant applications, the Secretary shall consult, to the maximum extent practicable, with—

(1) Sea Grant Institutions and extension agents of such institutions;

(2) community-based nongovernmental fishing organizations;

(3) Federal and State agencies, including Regional Fishery Management Councils established under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1851 et seq.);

(4) institutions of higher education with fisheries expertise and programs; and

(5) partners, as the Secretary determines.

(g) PROHIBITION.—A grant under this section may not be used to purchase any fishing license, permit, quota, or other harvesting right.

SEC. 5. FUNDING.

(a) AUTHORIZATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act $2,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026.

(b) DERIVATION.—Funds to carry out the activities under this Act shall be derived from amounts authorized to be appropriated pursuant to the preceding subsection that are enacted after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN) and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this bill comes to us from Congressman DON YOUNG, but it is called the Young Fisherman Development Act because it is all about fostering the business skills and development of young people in this industry. It is one of many reasons why I am proud to support this bill, which passed out of the Natural Resources Committee by unanimous consent.

I am grateful to our colleague from Alaska for sponsoring it. This bipartisan bill to assist fishing communities builds on the example of bipartisan ocean bills that we have passed in the House these past few weeks, including the Sea Grant reauthorization. I am proud to have led that effort and look forward to seeing it signed into law soon.

It is difficult for many young men and women to get started in the commercial fishing industry these days. That was the case even before the pandemic. Entry-level positions are challenging to find. For those who are attempting to start up on their own, there are staggering obstacles to overcome: boats, licenses, docking fees, and numerous other expenses that pose a high cost of entry and lots of financial risks.

To compound all of these difficulties, we have the pandemic, which has forced so many restaurants to close, upending the entire distribution system for seafood, severely impacting the industry and further straining young fishermen and -women.

Like Congressman YOUNG, I represent many fishing communities. I have heard firsthand from those in my district and across the country about the barriers the young entrants face when starting off in the commercial fishing industry. Supporting this new generation will help ensure that our country's rich coastal heritage and seafood economies continue to thrive.

This bill fosters a new generation in the American commercial fishing industry, doing several things by creating a national grant program through NOAA Sea Grant to support training, education, and workforce development. Under this program, universities, fishing associations, Tribes, and others can compete for grant funding. They can use those funds to train young commercial fishermen and -women in business practices and sustainable fishing.

This program will help teach skills in navigation; electronics; vessel and engine care; technology and engineering related to conservation fishing gear; direct marketing, supply chain, and traceability; financial and risk management; and much more.

It is a very important bill, and I urge my colleagues to support it. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, Representative HUFFMAN, for his support of this bill. He made some great points in favor of it, and I acknowledge and appreciate that.

I commend Congressman DON YOUNG from Alaska for his tireless commitment to our fishermen. DON YOUNG is the dean of the House, having served longer than any other of the 435 Members of Congress.

Research funded by Alaska Sea Grant found that the average age of Alaskan fishers was over 50 years old, an increase of more than 10 years over the past generation.

Young commercial fishermen are facing increasing challenges, such as barriers to entry and limited training opportunities, not to mention that U.S. fisheries are among the most highly regulated, monitored, and enforced fisheries in the world.

While NOAA has stated it has existing programs that address some of these concerns, no one program is dedicated to training, educating, and assisting the next generation of commercial fishermen. This bill addresses that deficiency.

Again, I thank Congressman YOUNG for his leadership on these issues.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of this measure, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I urge an ''aye'' vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1240, the Young Fishermen's Development Act. I would like to start off by thanking Senator LISA MURKOWSKI, and DAN SULLIVAN, along with Congresswoman RADEWAGEN, Congressman MOULTON, and everyone else who was involved in this legislation. Their hard work and dedication to the next generation of commercial fishermen is commendable.

Currently, there is no single federal program dedicated to training, educating, and assisting

the next generation of commercial fishermen. However, the need for such a program is very real. Daunting challenges, including the high cost of entry, financial risks, and limited entry-level opportunities, have made it harder than ever for young men and women to start a career in commercial fishing.

That is why we have introduced H.R. 1240, the Young Fishermen's Development Act, which is modeled after the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Development Program. Our legislation seeks to support our nation's aspiring commercial fishermen by creating a competitive grant program at NOAA to support local training, education, outreach, and technical assistance initiatives.

The bill would provide funding to entities that offer instruction in seamanship, navigation, electronics, safety, vessel maintenance, entrepreneurship, sustainable fishing, and other efforts related to the commercial fishing business. The heritage and economies of America's coastal communities are directly linked to our fisheries.

Help us ensure that the next generation of commercial fishermen is well prepared to sustainably harvest America's seafood by breaking down the many barriers facing young fishermen, I strongly support this bipartisan legislation and encourage all my colleagues to join me.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1240, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AERIAL INCURSION REPERCUSSION SAFETY ACT OF 2020

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5040) to direct the Director of the Bureau of Land Management to study the effects of drone incursions on wildfire suppression, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5040

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Aerial Incursion Repercussion Safety Act of 2020'' or the ''AIR Safety Act of 2020''.

SEC. 2. STUDY ON EFFECTS OF DRONE INCURSIONS ON WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION.

(a) STUDY REQUIRED.—The Director of the Bureau of Land Management, in consultation with the Chief of the Forest Service, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, and the National Association of State Foresters, shall conduct a study on the effects of drone incursions on the suppression of wildfires with respect to lands managed by the Department of the Interior or the Department of Agriculture.

(b) STUDY CONTENTS.—In conducting the study required under subsection (a), the Director shall—

(1) determine, for each of the five most recently completed calendar years, the number of occurrences in which a drone incursion interfered with wildfire suppression and the effect of each such occurrence on—

(A) the length of time required to achieve complete suppression;

(B) the effectiveness of aerial firefighting responses; and

(C) the amounts expended by the Federal Government; and

(2) evaluate the feasibility and effectiveness of various actions to prevent drone incursions, including—

(A) temporary flight restrictions of the Federal Aviation Administration; and

(B) the dissemination of education materials relating to the effects of drone incursions on wildfire suppression.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the findings of the study required under subsection (a) and any recommendations of the Director relating to such findings.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) DRONE.—The term ''drone'' means an unmanned aircraft system, as defined in section 44801 of title 49, United States Code, owned by a private individual or entity.

(2) DRONE INCURSION.—The term ''drone incursion'' means the operation of a drone within any airspace for which the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration has issued a temporary flight restriction because of a wildfire.

(3) WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION.—The term ''wildfire suppression'' has the meaning given such term in section 46320(d) of title 49, United States Code.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN) and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5040. This is a bipartisan bill introduced by my fellow committee member, Utah Congressman CURTIS, along with myself.

The Aerial Incursion Repercussion Safety Act, or the AIR Safety Act, requires the Director of BLM, in consultation with the Chief of the Forest Service, the Federal Aviation Administration, and the National Association of State Foresters, to conduct a study on the effects of drone incursion on wildfire suppression.

It is already a Federal crime to interfere with wildfire suppression efforts on public lands. In addition, the FAA often implements temporary flight restrictions, or TFRs, around wildfires to prevent aircraft from getting involved and interfering with suppression operations.

Despite these deterrents, private drone incursions near wildfires continue to be documented as causes of delays in airborne firefighting response that can pose threats to firefighting on the ground, undermine ongoing suppression efforts, and allow wildfires to encroach on nearby communities.

There have been many examples of this, but I specifically remember, during the October 2017 firestorms in Sonoma County, in my district, we received multiple reports of private drones interfering with firefighting helicopters and air tankers, forcing them to stay grounded for the safety of the Cal Fire pilots during the critical days when we needed them in the air.

This bill would raise awareness of the impacts of drone incursions on wildland fire suppression while examining ways to avoid future incursions.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, September 1, 2020.

Hon. COLIN PETERSON,
Chair, Committee on Agriculture,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIR PETERSON: I write to you concerning H.R. 5040, the ''AIR Safety Act of 2019.''

I appreciate your willingness to work cooperatively on this legislation. I recognize that the bill contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Agriculture. I acknowledge that your Committee will not formally consider H.R. 5040 and agree that the inaction of your Committee with respect to the bill does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the matters contained in the bill that fall within your Committee's Rule X jurisdiction.

I will ensure that our exchange of letters is included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to working with you as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

RAUL M. GRIJALVA,
Chair,
House Natural Resources Committee.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,
Washington, DC, December 1, 2020.

Hon. RAUL M. GRIJALVA,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN. This letter confirms our mutual understanding regarding H.R. 5040, the AIR Safety Incursion Act of 2020. Thank you for collaborating with the Committee on Agriculture on the matters within our jurisdiction.

The Committee on Agriculture will forego any further consideration of this bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor for consideration. However, by foregoing consideration at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over any subject matter contained in this or similar legislation. We request that our Committee be consulted and involved as this bill moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues in

our jurisdiction. The Committee on Agriculture also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation and ask that you support any such request.

We would appreciate a response to this letter confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 5040, and request that a copy of our letters on this matter be published in the Congressional Record during Floor consideration.

Sincerely,

COLIN C. PETERSON,
Chair.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5040, the AIR Safety Act, authored by Congressman JOHN CURTIS from Utah. This is a simple bill that will improve our ability to fight the wildfires that have continued to wreak havoc in our Western States.

Although laws exist prohibiting interference with wildfire fighting, many people still fly their private drones near fires to take pictures and videos.

Unauthorized drones flying in these areas can cause all aerial firefighting tools, including helicopters dropping flame retardant, to be grounded, which wastes valuable time and money that could otherwise be used to suppress the fire and save lives and property.

The AIR Safety Act directs our land management agencies to study drone incursions over the past 5 years and mandates that the agencies develop better strategies to prevent drones from interfering in firefighting activities in the first place.

In the wake of yet another devastating wildfire season, it is critical that we do everything we can to empower our brave wildland firefighters with the tools they need to safely and quickly respond to fires. This bipartisan bill is a small but important step toward achieving that goal.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CURTIS), who introduced the bill and has sponsored it, along with the bipartisan sponsorship of Mr. HUFFMAN.

Mr. CURTIS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman GRIJALVA and Ranking Member BISHOP for helping us move this bill along. Special thanks to my cosponsor, who shares a not-so-unique problem in our districts of wildfires and fighting those.

Mr. Speaker, I obviously rise in support of the AIR Safety Act, which will examine risks and effects of drone incursions on wildland firefighting.

In the last few years, Utah and the rest of the West have been battling extreme wildfires. Our Federal land managers and State and local partners need every tool available to them to put these fires out.

When a wildfire breaks out, the FAA sets up a temporary flight restriction, or TFR, around the perimeter to allow aerial firefighters full access to the fire.

Unfortunately, when people ignore these TFRs and fly their drones around the fire, fire management must ground their own drones and helicopters until the area is clear. This wastes valuable time and money, putting structures and, most importantly, lives at risk.

The AIR Safety Act will direct the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, FAA, and State forestry partners to examine these risks and come up with ways to stop future problems.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I request an ''aye'' vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5040, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3 of House Resolution 965, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK BOUNDARY MODIFICATION ACT

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5458) to modify the boundary of the Rocky Mountain National Park, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5458

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Rocky Mountain National Park Boundary Modification Act''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) MAP.—The term ''map'' means the map entitled ''Rocky Mountain National Park Proposed Boundary Revision'', numbered 121/154,327, and dated June 2019.

(2) NON-FEDERAL LAND.—The term ''non-Federal land'' means the approximately 40 acres of non-Federal land depicted as ''TR 05–133'' on the map.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 3. ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK BOUNDARY MODIFICATION.

(a) LAND ACQUISITION.—The Secretary may acquire, by donation, the non-Federal land for inclusion in the Rocky Mountain National Park.

(b) BOUNDARY MODIFICATION.—On acquisition of the non-Federal land under subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

(1) modify the boundary of the Rocky Mountain National Park to include the acquisition; and

(2) administer the acquired land as part of the Rocky Mountain National Park, in accordance with applicable laws.

(c) AVAILABILITY OF MAP.—The map shall be on file and available for public inspection in appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN) and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5458, the Rocky Mountain National Park Boundary Modification Act, the first of two bills introduced by my Colorado colleague, Representative JOE NEGUSE.

This bill would modify the boundary of Colorado's Rocky Mountain National Park to include approximately 40 acres of non-Federal land that former U.S. astronaut Vance Brand hopes to donate to the park.

This 40-acre tract will provide enhanced protections for the park's high-elevation ecosystems and would increase recreational access and connectivity by providing a natural buffer between private lands and three popular trails.

Rocky Mountain National Park is home to many of our Nation's most treasured landscapes, and I commend Representative NEGUSE for his efforts to expand and enhance protections for this park.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5458 authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to acquire, by donation only, approximately 40 acres of non-Federal land for inclusion in Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado.

As many of you may know, Rocky Mountain National Park is one of the crown jewels of our National Park System.

The land to be donated is directly adjacent to the current park boundary and was recently donated to the Rocky Mountain Conservancy. The land being donated is entirely undeveloped, so it won't increase the deferred maintenance of the National Park Service in any way.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. NEGUSE).

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Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman HUFFMAN for his leadership.

I am proud to speak in support of two of my bills being considered today, H.R. 5458 and H.R. 5459. As you have heard, these bipartisan bills would extend Rocky Mountain National Park and ultimately create more opportunities for Coloradans and visitors to our State to enjoy outdoor activities.

H.R. 5458, the bill before the House right now, the Rocky Mountain National Park Boundary Modification Act, as has been articulated previously, would formally codify a generous donation into the park boundary made by former astronaut and Longmont, Colorado, native, Vance Brand.

Mr. Brand bravely served our country in the Armed Forces and then served as an astronaut, and he has now so generously agreed to donate roughly 40 acres to Rocky Mountain National Park. This expansion would add additional protections for the park's high elevation ecosystem and provide recreational access to literally hundreds of miles of trails.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have introduced both of these legislative proposals, which came at the request of local communities that I have the honor of representing back in Colorado and that ultimately seek to protect the public lands that they love. The bills enjoy the support from the town of Estes Park, Larimer County, and the Rocky Mountain Conservancy.

As one of the Nation's most historic parks, Rocky Mountain National Park remains one of the top-visited public lands in our country, attracting over 4.6 million people, annually, in recent years. Given the park's breathtaking scenery and iconic significance, these numbers are only anticipated to rise.

I know my good friend from the Fifth Congressional District of Colorado, Representative LAMBORN, knows Rocky Mountain National Park well. I am sure, like me, he and his family have had countless opportunities to enjoy the park and its breathtaking scenery.

It is an honor to be able to represent Rocky Mountain National Park here in the United States Congress.

People from all over the world are drawn to the park, each for their own reasons, to experience nature, seek solitude, watch wildlife, and partake in outstanding recreational activities. I, myself, hold a number of treasured memories growing up in Colorado and enjoying Rocky Mountain National Park: hikes with my father and now being able to take my daughter on those same trails. It is something that holds deep meaning for many Americans, and especially for Coloradans.

As we collectively seek healing during and after the COVID–19 pandemic, our public lands offer both a mental and physical refuge as well as an economic stimulus for the local communities that rely on them.

Additionally—and this bears mentioning—this year, devastating wildfires have occurred across Colorado, forcing evacuations, threatening air and water quality, and destroying homes and businesses. Three of the State's five largest fires in the history of Colorado occurred in 2020.

While the bulk of these fires were on lands surrounding Rocky Mountain National Park, nearly 30,000 acres burned within the park's boundary. When the East Troublesome fire grew over 100,000 acres in 1 day and swept through a portion of the park, a number of park structures were lost.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to thank the superintendent of the Rocky Mountain National Park and her wonderful rangers and all of the personnel at Rocky Mountain National Park who work tirelessly to protect the park and the communities that surround it.

Given the devastating nature of these wildfires, in addition to the COVID–19 pandemic, fulfilling the requests of local Colorado communities that have been impacted by, not one, but two, historic disasters is an even greater imperative.

Mr. Speaker, for that reason, I respectfully urge my colleagues to support both H.R. 5458 and H.R. 5459, bipartisan bills that will protect our treasured public lands.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I request an ''aye'' vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5458.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK OWNERSHIP CORRECTION ACT

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5459) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to correct a land ownership error within the boundary of Rocky Mountain National Park, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5459

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Rocky Mountain National Park Ownership Correction Act''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) FEDERAL LAND.—The term ''Federal land'' means the approximately 0.18 acres of land depicted as ''TR04–168–1'' on the map.

(2) MAP.—The term ''map'' means the map entitled ''Rocky Mountain National Park Proposed Forsyth Family Land Exchange'', numbered 121/154,326, and dated June 2019.

(3) NON-FEDERAL LAND.—The term ''non-Federal land'' means the approximately 0.18 acres of land depicted as ''TR04–169'' on the map.

(4) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 3. ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK LAND EXCHANGE.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF EXCHANGE.—To correct a longstanding land ownership error, if the owner of the non-Federal land offers to convey to the Secretary all right, title, and interest of the owner in and to the non-Federal land, the Secretary shall convey to the owner of the non-Federal land, subject to valid existing rights, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the Federal land.

(b) VALUATION.—The value of the Federal land and the non-Federal land to be exchanged under this Act shall be considered to be of equal value.

(c) ADMINISTRATION.—The non-Federal land acquired by the Secretary under this section shall be administered by the Secretary as part of Rocky Mountain National Park.

(d) AVAILABILITY OF MAP.—The map shall be on file and available for inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN) and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5459, the Rocky Mountain National Park Ownership Correction Act, introduced again by my colleague, JOE NEGUSE.

In the 1970s, a tiny 0.18-acre plot of land containing the Forsyth family cabin was erroneously transferred to Rocky Mountain National Park when the Park Service purchased land surrounding a private inholding.

Since the error was discovered, the Park Service has been working with the Forsyth family to correct the legal ownership and exchange parcels, and the family is currently using its cabin through a special use permit. This bill would permanently resolve this ownership issue and ensure the intent of the original purchase is met by authorizing an equal value land exchange between the Forsyth family and the Secretary of the Interior.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Representative NEGUSE for his efforts to resolve this longstanding ownership issue, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5459 authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to exchange a 0.18-acre parcel of park land for the same amount of private land to resolve a land ownership issue within the boundary of the Rocky Mountain National Park.

In the 1970s, the National Park Service purchased land surrounding a private inholding. An error in the bank's legal description incorrectly included a 0.18-acre parcel in that purchase. As a result, the parcel the National Park Service acquired included a family cabin, and the private owner acquired a vacant lot, not the cabin site.

This bill will permanently resolve this issue with an equal value land swap and ensure that the intent of the original purchase is met. This may be the tiniest amount of land that we have ever considered in a land use bill, but it is, nevertheless, an important piece of land and a good bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I urge an ''aye'' vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5459.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SAGUARO NATIONAL PARK BOUNDARY EXPANSION AND STUDY ACT OF 2020

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7098) to expand the boundary of Saguaro National Park, to study additional land for future adjustments to the boundary of the park, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2098

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Saguaro National Park Boundary Expansion and Study Act of 2020''.

SEC. 2. BOUNDARY OF SAGUARO NATIONAL PARK.

Section 4 of the Saguaro National Park Establishment Act of 1994 (Public Law 103–364; 108 Stat. 3467) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by inserting ''(1)'' before ''The boundaries of the park''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(2)(A) The boundaries of the park are further modified to include approximately 1,232 acres, as generally depicted on the map titled 'Saguaro National Park__ Proposed Boundary Adjustment', numbered 151/80,045G, and dated October 2020.

''(B) The map referred to in subparagraph (A) shall be on file and available for inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.'';

(2) by striking subsection (b)(2) and inserting the following new paragraphs:

''(2) The Secretary may, with the consent of the State of Arizona and in accordance with Federal and State law, acquire land or interests therein owned by the State of Arizona within the boundary of the park.

''(3) If the Secretary is unable to acquire the State land under paragraph (2), the Secretary may enter into an agreement with the State that would allow the National Park Service to manage State land within the boundary of the park.''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(d) BOUNDARY STUDY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct a study to identify any lands outside the boundaries of the park that may be appropriate for inclusion in the park.

''(2) CRITERIA.—The study shall be conducted in accordance with National Park Service criteria for boundary adjustment studies.

''(3) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date funds are made available for the study under this subsection, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report on the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the study.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN) and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 7098, a bill introduced by the chairman of the Natural Resources Committee, Raul Grijalva from Arizona.

This bill would modify the boundaries of Saguaro National Park and authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire lands within these new boundaries from willing sellers. The bill would also require the Secretary to study future potential boundary expansions and land acquisitions that would add to the park's natural, cultural, and recreational resources.

Saguaro National Park is a true urban oasis, located in the Tucson metropolitan area in Chairman GRIJALVA's hometown. This park provides habitat for iconic species, including its namesake—the saguaro cactus—and the desert tortoise, and it provides unparalleled recreational resources, such as hiking and mountain biking trails.

The expansion authorized in this bill would add to those abundant resources and provide an important linkage between the park and Pima County's Sweetwater Preserve, expanding access to southern Arizona's public lands.

There is broad local support for this expansion, which includes the Pima County Administrator, the Tucson Mountain Homeowners Association, and each individual owner of the land identified for inclusion in the park.

This bill is not just a win for the residents of southern Arizona; it is also a win for our national parks and public lands.

Expanding the future of conservation and access to public lands is a hallmark of Chairman GRIJALVA's leadership, so I want to thank him for that and for his hard work on this bill, and I urge its swift adoption by the House.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 7098 would expand the boundary of Saguaro National Park, Arizona, by a cumulative total of approximately 1,232 acres.

For those who haven't visited this park, it is another one of the jewels of our National Park System. I have been there, and I would urge everyone who has a chance to also visit this beautiful place.

The bill also authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to acquire land owned by the State of Arizona within the boundary of the park.

In addition, the bill also authorizes agreements where the National Park Service would manage State-owned land within the boundary of the park where acquisition is not possible.

Finally, the bill also authorizes a study to identify future potential park expansions to better protect desert habitats in the greater Tucson area.

Now, while I don't understand why the State of Arizona would want the National Park Service to manage any more land within its boundaries, this bill does go about expanding a park unit in the right way: through an open, deliberative process in Congress. This bill authorizes a rather large addition to the park, but we heard no local opposition to the expansion.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I urge an ''aye'' vote, and I yield the balance of my time.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN) that the House suspend the

rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7098, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: ''A bill to expand the boundary of Saguaro National Park, to authorize a study of additional land for potential inclusion in the park, and for other purposes.''.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

LONG BRIDGE ACT OF 2020

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7489) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the Commonwealth of Virginia or the District of Columbia certain Federal land under the administrative jurisdiction of the National Park Service for the construction of rail and other infrastructure, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7489

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Long Bridge Act of 2020''.

SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF CONVEYANCES.

(a) CONVEYANCES AUTHORIZED.—On request of the Commonwealth of Virginia or the District of Columbia, as applicable, the Secretary of the Interior may, subject to any terms and conditions that the Secretary determines to be necessary, convey to the Commonwealth of Virginia or the District of Columbia, as applicable, any Federal land or interest in Federal land under the jurisdiction of the Secretary that is identified by the Commonwealth of Virginia or the District of Columbia, as applicable, as necessary for the Long Bridge Project.

(b) REVERSION.—If any portion of the Federal land or interest in Federal land conveyed under subsection (a) is no longer being used for railroad purposes or recreational use, title to the portion of the Federal land or interest in the portion of the Federal land shall revert to the Secretary, on a determination by the Secretary that the portion of the Federal land has been remediated and restored to a condition determined to be satisfactory by the Secretary.

(c) TEMPORARY USE.—The Secretary may allow the temporary use of any Federal land under the jurisdiction of the Secretary that is identified by the Commonwealth of Virginia or the District of Columbia, as applicable, as necessary for the construction of the Long Bridge Project, subject to any terms and conditions determined to be necessary by the Secretary.

(d) RECOVERY OF COSTS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary may recover from the Commonwealth of Virginia or the District of Columbia, as applicable, all costs incurred by the Secretary in providing or procuring necessary services associated with a conveyance under subsection (a) or use authorized under subsection (c).

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) LONG BRIDGE PROJECT.—The term ''Long Bridge Project'' means the project consisting of improvements to the Long Bridge and related railroad infrastructure between Rossyln (RO) Interlocking in Arlington, Virginia, and L'Enfant (LE) Interlocking near 10th Street SW in the District of Columbia, the purpose of which is to expand commuter and regional passenger rail service and provide bicycle and pedestrian access crossings over the Potomac River.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the National Park Service.

SEC. 3. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled ''Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation'' for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN) and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 7489, the Long Bridge Act, introduced by our colleague, Representative WITTMAN, from Virginia.

This bill is a simple piece of legislation, but it is important. It authorizes the National Park Service to convey select parcels of land to the Commonwealth of Virginia or the District of Columbia in order to facilitate updates to the Long Bridge, a critical commuter and freight rail corridor in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area.

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The existing bridge, which is used by Amtrak, the Virginia Railway Express, and CSX Transportation was built all the way back in 1904. It has not been substantially upgraded since 1942.

The current project is a partnership between the U.S. Department of Transportation, the Virginia Department of Rail and Transportation, and the District of Columbia, and it will double capacity of the bridge by constructing a second bridge alongside the existing structure.

Allowing the National Park Service to convey small tracts of land will facilitate completion of this very important upgrade.

To be clear, we are not talking about land that includes historic resources, open space, or park-like qualities.

The agency has final say in what can be transferred, and the bill includes important safeguards to ensure that the land identified for conveyance is used only for railroad purposes.

This project is a priority for this region, and I am happy to lend my support to this commonsense, bipartisan solution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 7489, offered by our Natural Resources Committee colleague from Virginia, Mr. WITTMAN, authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to convey about 4.4 acres of Federal property for the construction of a new commuter rail and pedestrian bridge spanning the Potomac.

Current law allows a right of way for railroads on most Federal lands, but not for railroads on National Park Service lands, therefore, legislation is needed to authorize a small amount of National Park System land to be conveyed or used by Virginia to construct a railroad.

The Long Bridge Project will double the capacity of the Potomac River rail crossing by adding a second two-track bridge adjacent to the existing bridge, as well as a pedestrian crossing.

I commend Representative WITTMAN for his hard work on the Long Bridge Project and for this bipartisan and tri-jurisdiction legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BEYER).

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Today I rise in support of the Long Bridge Act of 2020, which I proudly colead with my colleague from Virginia, Congressman ROB WITTMAN.

The existing Long Bridge is the only rail bridge connecting Virginia to Washington, D.C., and it is the main rail connection between the southeast and northeast for both passenger and freight rail.

The Long Bridge is old and rusty and ugly and a treasured part of our landscape. It was authorized by Congress in 1808 and signed into law by President Thomas Jefferson. It cost $200,000 to build initially.

Now, during peak hours, the two-track bridge is at almost 98 percent capacity, which makes it a significant chokepoint along the East Coast from Washington, D.C., all the way to Florida.

That is why the Long Bridge Project is so crucial. It would double the capacity of the Potomac River rail crossing by adding a second two-track bridge adjacent to the existing bridge.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot stress how impactful the new Long Bridge Project will be, projecting an annual $6 billion in benefits to the region by 2040.

However, the land where construction will take place on both sides of the Potomac River is controlled by the National Park Service, and it is currently

prohibited by law to transfer land to the Commonwealth of Virginia and the District of Columbia for the purposes of railroad construction.

That is where our bill comes in.

The Long Bridge Act of 2020 is a simple fix to allow the National Park Service to transfer control of this land for the purpose of the Long Bridge rail project.

So I wholeheartedly support this bill. This will enable the Commonwealth of Virginia to move forward with this vital construction.

I thank my colleagues from Virginia, D.C., and Maryland on both sides of the aisle for supporting this bill. And I thank, again, my colleague, ROB WITTMAN, for his efforts on behalf of the Long Bridge Act of 2020.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WITTMAN).

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman HUFFMAN, Ranking Member LAMBORN, and my colleague, Representative DON BEYER for the united effort to make sure that we get this Long Bridge bill passed, to make sure we get a new Long Bridge built, because we know that this is critically important, not just for Virginia, for the District, and for Maryland, but for the Nation because of the critical link point that it is for transportation.

As we know, this is in some ways looked at as a regional project, but it is actually more than that.

The First District of Virginia, the district that I represent, spans the I–95 corridor in Northern Virginia, which includes one of the worst traffic hot spots in the Nation. That is undeniable. In fact, who knows it better than Members here in Congress what they have to deal with each day in their commute.

As a daily commuter myself, I understand the frustration that folks have. This is going to be a critical point for us to be able to use rail as a very efficient means by which to move people and to move commerce throughout the region. Incredibly important. And with passage of this bill, Congress is providing the adequate resources to leverage the Commonwealth's investment to address issues on I–95.

It has been a great cooperative agreement between the Commonwealth of Virginia and CSX, who owns the line, to make sure that this gets done. It is really unprecedented in what they have agreed to, and it is not just this line, but it is also all the connectors. So this is a great step to really enhance our rail system, which we know is incredibly important to address transportation issues, not just across the eastern seaboard but really across the Nation.

An important component of this in reducing traffic congestion in this region, as I said, is commuter rail. And this bridge spans the Potomac, one of those chokepoints, the major chokepoint here on the eastern seaboard.

It is very heavily traveled. There has to be a balance between transit from a commuter standpoint, passenger rail, and freight rail. And many times there is a battle back and forth, and, unfortunately, freight rail prevails in that since freight companies own the rail. We want to make sure that there is balance there, and this provides a balance.

And I have to give CSX credit for coming to the table and saying, listen, we understand how incredibly important passenger rail is. Even though that is not within their purview, they do see how important that is. So it is a real testament to a lot of different entities coming together to make this work.

And just as Representative BEYER said, the existing bridge is at 98 percent capacity during peak hours, and is used by both VRE, the Virginia Railway Express, Amtrak, and CSX. There is a lot of traffic coming across that bridge; we want to make sure that it can all be accommodated.

We know the proposed design for a new track bridge upstream of the current Long Bridge and five additional bridges in Virginia and D.C. provide those connectors and conduits that we need for the region.

The bill authorizes the Secretary of the Interior, through the National Park Service director, to convey to and authorize the use by both Virginia and D.C. to be able to utilize a small section of National Park Service land for the construction of the new Long Bridge structure for rail and for an additional, as we have heard, walkable and bikeable pedestrian bridge spanning the Potomac River; incredibly important for the region.

The bill will also convey title and interest to Virginia of about 4.4 permanent acres of National Park Service land for the express purpose of this project.

The National Park Service will authorize Virginia to temporarily use 8.4 acres of land for the construction which reverts back to the National Park Service at the discretion of the NPS director when the project gets completed. So it is essentially construction use while equipment is there, but then it reverts back to the National Park Service.

This project supports projected increases in passenger and freight rail through this corridor, not only now but in the future, and it also enhances economic growth and mobility for the region.

It increases the capacity of the rail network for many areas, including the Port of Virginia, which handles 37 percent of goods that move in and out of that port by rail; a great enhancer.

The Port of Virginia will need to increase that share to 45 percent by 2040 to handle a threefold increase in shipments. This will help them do that.

Building a new Long Bridge doubles the rail capacity at this major bottleneck and is incredibly important for the eastern seaboard but also regionally, for not only Virginia and the District, but also, Maryland; so all incredibly important.

The legislation is a significant milestone in transforming passenger and freight rail service along the East Coast and really making a significant step forward in increasing the capacity and opportunity for freight rail.

The construction is a project of major national significance in unlocking the gridlock in this region and is incredibly important.

Finally, I want to thank again the leadership on the Natural Resources Committee, Chairman HUFFMAN, Ranking Member LAMBORN, and my colleague DON BEYER for coleading this effort and also Representative HOLMES NORTON and the rest of the members of the regional delegations and staff for making this important element work.

I also thank Senators MARK WARNER and TIM KAINE for introducing the Senate companion bill over on the Senate side.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further witnesses, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7489, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DRIFTNET MODERNIZATION AND BYCATCH REDUCTION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 906) to improve the management of driftnet fishing, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 283, nays 105, not voting 41, as follows:

[Roll No. 242]

YEAS—283

Adams	Bishop (GA)	Buchanan
Aguilar	Blumenauer	Budd
Allred	Blunt Rochester	Bustos
Amash	Bonamici	Butterfield
Axne	Bost	Carbajal
Barragán	Boyle, Brendan F.	Cárdenas
Bass	Brindisi	Carson (IN)
Bera	Brooks (IN)	Carter (GA)
Bergman	Brown (MD)	Cartwright
Beyer	Brownley (CA)	Case
Bilirakis		Casten (IL)

Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Cisneros
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Cox (CA)
Craig
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Cunningham
Davids (KS)
Davis, Danny K.
Davis, Rodney
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Engel
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Evans
Ferguson
Finkenauer
Fitzpatrick
Fletcher
Fortenberry
Foster
Frankel
Gabbard
Gaetz
Gallego
Garamendi
García (CA)
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gianforte
Gibbs
Golden
Gomez
Gonzalez (OH)
Gonzalez (TX)
Gottheimer
Granger
Green, Al (TX)
Griffith
Grijalva
Guest
Haaland
Hall
Harder (CA)
Hartzler
Hastings
Hayes
Heck
Higgins (LA)
Higgins (NY)
Hill (AR)
Himes
Horn, Kendra S.
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Huffman
Hurd (TX)
Jackson Lee
Jacobs
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (TX)
Joyce (OH)
Kaptur
Katko
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim
Kind
Kinzinger
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster (NH)
LaHood
Lamb
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Luján
Luria
Lynch
Malinowski
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Mast
Matsui
McAdams
McBath
McCaul
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Mfume
Miller
Mooney (WV)
Moore
Morelle
Moulton
Mucarsel-Powell
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Norcross
O'Halleran
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Palazzo
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Reed
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Roe, David P.
Rose (NY)
Rouda
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Rutherford
Ryan
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scalise
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shalala
Sherman
Sherrill
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Soto
Spanberger
Speier
Stanton
Stefanik
Stevens
Stewart
Suozzi
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Taylor
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres Small (NM)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Upton
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Waltz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wexton
Wild
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wittman
Womack
Yarmuth

NAYS—105

Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Biggs
Brady
Brooks (AL)
Buck
Bucshon
Burchett
Burgess
Cheney
Cline
Cloud
Cole
Comer
Conaway
Curtis
Davidson (OH)
Emmer
Estes
Fleischmann
Flores
Foxx (NC)
Fulcher
Gallagher
Gohmert
Gooden
Gosar
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Grothman
Guthrie
Hagedorn
Harris
Hern, Kevin
Herrera Beutler
Hice (GA)
Hollingsworth
Hudson
Huizenga
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (PA)
Keller
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kustoff (TN)
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Latta
Lesko
Long
Luetkemeyer
Marshall
Massie
McCarthy
McClintock
Meuser
Moolenaar
Mullin
Murphy (NC)
Norman
Nunes
Olson
Palmer
Perry
Posey
Riggleman
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose, John W.
Roy
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Spano
Stauber
Steil
Stivers
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiffany
Tipton
Turner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Watkins
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Wilson (SC)
Woodall
Yoho
Zeldin

NOT VOTING—41

Abraham
Aderholt
Allen
Beatty
Bishop (NC)
Bishop (UT)
Byrne
Calvert
Carter (TX)
Clay
Collins (GA)
Davis (CA)
DesJarlais
Doyle, Michael F.
Duncan
Dunn
Fudge
Graves (LA)
Holding
Johnson (LA)
Keating
Loudermilk
Lucas
Marchant
Mitchell
Newhouse
Pence
Reschenthaler
Roby
Rooney (FL)
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Shimkus
Simpson
Steube
Timmons
Van Drew
Wagner
Westerman
Wright
Young

□ 1124

Messrs. BALDERSON, HUDSON, SMITH of Nebraska, OLSON, STIVERS, and LONG changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Mr. FERGUSON changed his vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 242.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 965, 116TH CONGRESS

Barragán (Beyer)
Bera (Aguilar)
Bonamici (Clark (MA))
Boyle, Brendan F. (Jeffries)
Brownley (CA) (Clark (MA))
Cárdenas (Cisneros)
Cohen (Beyer)
Costa (Cooper)
Cunningham (Murphy (FL))
Dean (Scanlon)
DeSaulnier (Matsui)
Deutch (Rice (NY))
Doggett (Raskin)
Engel (Pallone)
Frankel (Clark (MA))
Garamendi (Sherman)
Grijalva (García (IL))
Hastings (Wasserman Schultz)
Jayapal (Raskin)
Johnson (TX) (Jeffries)
Kim (Davids (KS))
Kind (Beyer)
Kirkpatrick (Stanton)
Kuster (NH) (Clark (MA))
Lamb (Panetta)
Langevin (Lynch)
Larson (CT) (Cicilline)
Lawson (FL) (Demings)
Lieu, Ted (Beyer)
Lofgren (Jeffries)
Lowenthal (Beyer)
Lowey (Tonko)
McEachin (Wexton)
Meng (Clark (MA))
Moore (Beyer)
Mucarsel-Powell (Wasserman Schultz)
Nadler (Jeffries)
Napolitano (Correa)
Pascrell (Pallone)
Payne (Wasserman Schultz)
Peters (Kildee)
Peterson (Craig)
Pingree (Cicilline)
Pocan (Raskin)
Porter (Wexton)
Price (NC) (Butterfield)
Richmond (Butterfield)
Rouda (Aguilar)
Roybal-Allard (Garcia (TX))
Ruiz (Dingell)
Rush (Underwood)
Schneider (Casten (IL))
Schrier (DelBene)
Serrano (Jeffries)
Titus (Connolly)
Tlaib (Dingell)
Trahan (McGovern)
Vargas (Correa)
Velázquez (Clarke (NY))
Watson Coleman (Pallone)
Welch (McGovern)
Wilson (FL) (Hayes)

AERIAL INCURSION REPERCUSSION SAFETY ACT OF 2020

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HIMES). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5040) to direct the Director of the Bureau of Land Management to study the effects of drone incursions on wildfire suppression, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 382, nays 6, not voting 41, as follows:

[Roll No. 243]

YEAS—382

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Axne
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bera
Bergman
Beyer
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bost
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady
Brindisi
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Brown (MD)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Buck
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson (IN)
Carter (GA)
Cartwright
Case
Casten (IL)
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Cheney
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Cisneros
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Cline
Cloud
Clyburn
Cohen
Cole
Comer
Conaway
Connolly
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Cox (CA)
Craig
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Cunningham
Curtis
Davids (KS)
Davidson (OH)
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny K.
Davis, Rodney
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Emmer
Engel
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Estes
Evans
Ferguson
Finkenauer
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fletcher
Flores
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx (NC)
Frankel
Fulcher
Gabbard
Gaetz
Gallagher
Gallego
Garamendi
García (CA)
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gianforte
Gibbs
Gohmert
Golden
Gomez
Gonzalez (OH)
Gonzalez (TX)
Gooden
Gosar
Gottheimer
Granger
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Green, Al (TX)
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Haaland
Hagedorn
Hall
Harder (CA)
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings
Hayes
Heck
Hern, Kevin
Herrera Beutler
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Higgins (NY)
Hill (AR)
Himes
Hollingsworth
Horn, Kendra S.
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga
Hurd (TX)
Jackson Lee
Jacobs
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Johnson (TX)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kaptur
Katko
Keller
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Khanna
Kildee

Kilmer
Kim
Kind
King (NY)
Kinzinger
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster (NH)
Kustoff (TN)
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamb
Lamborn
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Lesko
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lowey
Luetkemeyer
Luján
Luria
Lynch
Malinowski
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Marshall
Mast
Matsui
McAdams
McBath
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Meuser
Mfume
Miller
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Moore
Morelle
Moulton
Mucarsel-Powell
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (NC)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Newhouse
Norcross
Norman
Nunes
O'Halleran
Ocasio-Cortez
Olson
Omar
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters
Peterson
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Posey
Pressley
Price (NC)
Raskin
Reed
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Riggleman
Rodgers (WA)
Roe, David P.
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose (NY)
Rose, John W.
Rouda
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Rutherford
Ryan
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scalise
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shalala
Sherman
Sherrill
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Soto
Spanberger
Spano
Speier
Stanton
Stauber
Stefanik
Steil
Stevens
Stewart
Stivers
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Taylor
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiffany
Tipton
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres Small (NM)
Trahan
Trone
Turner
Underwood
Upton
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Waltz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watkins
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Welch
Wenstrup
Wexton
Wild
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoho
Zeldin

NAYS—6

Amash
Biggs
King (IA)
Massie
Roy
Webster (FL)

NOT VOTING—41

Abraham
Aderholt
Allen
Bishop (NC)
Bishop (UT)
Bucshon
Byrne
Calvert
Carter (TX)
Clay
Collins (GA)
DesJarlais
Doyle, Michael F.
Duncan
Dunn
Fudge
Graves (LA)
Holding
Keating
Loudermilk
Lucas
Marchant
Mitchell
Pence
Quigley
Reschenthaler
Roby
Rooney (FL)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Shimkus
Simpson
Steube
Suozzi
Timmons
Van Drew
Wagner
Westerman
Wright
Young

□ 1204

Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio changed his vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the House on December 9 and 10, 2020. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yea'' on rollcall No. 240; ''yea on rollcall No. 241; ''nay'' on rollcall No. 242; and ''yea'' on rollcall No. 243.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on December 10, 2020. Had I been present, I would have voted ''nay'' on rollcall No. 242 and ''yea'' on rollcall No. 243.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I was unfortunately prevented from traveling and unable to make votes on December 10, 2020. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of S. 906 and H.R. 5040.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to attend votes today due to self-quarantining for COVID–19. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yea'' on rollcall No. 242 and ''yea'' on rollcall No. 243.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I am not recorded for rollcall votes No. 242 and No. 243 on Thursday, December 10, 2020 because I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yea'' on S. 906, Driftnet Modernization and Bycatch Reduction Act, RC No. 242, and ''yea'' on H.R. 5040, AIR Safety Act of 2020, RC No. 243.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 965, 116TH CONGRESS

Barragán (Beyer)
Bera (Aguilar)
Bonamici (Clark (MA))
Boyle, Brendan F. (Jeffries)
Brownley (CA) (Clark (MA))
Cárdenas (Cisneros)
Cohen (Beyer)
Costa (Cooper)
Cunningham (Murphy (FL))
Dean (Scanlon)
DeSaulnier (Matsui)
Deutch (Rice (NY))
Doggett (Raskin)
Engel (Pallone)
Frankel (Clark (MA))
Garamendi (Sherman)
Grijalva (Garcia (IL))
Hastings (Wasserman Schultz)
Jayapal (Raskin)
Johnson (TX) (Jeffries)
Kim (Davids (KS))
Kind (Beyer)
Kirkpatrick (Stanton)
Kuster (NH) (Clark (MA))
Lamb (Panetta)
Langevin (Lynch)
Larson (CT) (Cicilline)
Lawson (FL) (Demings)
Lieu, Ted (Beyer)
Lofgren (Jeffries)
Lowenthal (Beyer)
Lowey (Tonko)
McEachin (Wexton)
Meng (Clark (MA))
Moore (Beyer)
Mucarsel-Powell (Wasserman Schultz)
Nadler (Jeffries)
Napolitano (Correa)
Pascrell (Pallone)
Payne (Wasserman Schultz)
Peters (Kildee)
Peterson (Craig)
Pingree (Cicilline)
Pocan (Raskin)
Porter (Wexton)
Price (NC) (Butterfield)
Richmond (Butterfield)
Rouda (Aguilar)
Roybal-Allard (Garcia (TX))
Ruiz (Dingell)
Rush (Underwood)
Schneider (Casten (IL))
Schrier (DelBene)
Serrano (Jeffries)
Titus (Connolly)
Tlaib (Dingell)
Trahan (McGovern)
Vargas (Correa)
Velázquez (Clarke (NY))
Watson Coleman (Pallone)
Welch (McGovern)
Wilson (FL) (Hayes)

SECURING AMERICA'S PORTS ACT

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 5273) to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop a plan to increase to 100 percent the rates of scanning of commercial and passenger vehicles entering the United States at land ports of entry along the border using large-scale non-intrusive inspection systems to enhance border security, and for other purposes, with the Senate amendments thereto, and concur in the Senate amendments.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CICILLINE). The Clerk will report the Senate amendments.

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendments:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Securing America's Ports Act''.

SEC. 2. LARGE-SCALE NON-INTRUSIVE INSPECTION SCANNING PLAN.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) LARGE-SCALE NON-INTRUSIVE INSPECTION SYSTEM.—The term ''large-scale, non-intrusive inspection system'' means a technology, including x-ray, gamma-ray, and passive imaging systems, capable of producing an image of the contents of a commercial or passenger vehicle or freight rail car in 1 pass of such vehicle or car.

(2) SCANNING.—The term ''scanning'' means utilizing nonintrusive imaging equipment, radiation detection equipment, or both, to capture data, including images of a commercial or passenger vehicle or freight rail car.

(b) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit a plan to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives for increasing to 100 percent the rate of high-throughput scanning of commercial and passenger vehicles and freight rail traffic entering the United States at land ports of entry and rail-border crossings along the border using large-scale non-intrusive inspection systems or similar technology to enhance border security.

(c) BASELINE INFORMATION.—The plan under subsection (b) shall include, at a minimum, the following information regarding large-scale non-intrusive inspection systems or similar technology operated by U.S. Customs and Border Protection at land ports of entry and rail-border crossings as of the date of the enactment of this Act:

(1) An inventory of large-scale non-intrusive inspection systems or similar technology in use at each land port of entry.

(2) For each system or technology identified in the inventory under paragraph (1)—

(A) the scanning method of such system or technology;

(B) the location of such system or technology at each land port of entry that specifies whether in use in pre-primary, primary, or secondary inspection area, or some combination of such areas;

(C) the percentage of commercial and passenger vehicles and freight rail traffic scanned by such system or technology;

(D) seizure data directly attributed to scanned commercial and passenger vehicles and freight rail traffic; and

(E) the number of personnel required to operate each system or technology.

(3) Information regarding the continued use of other technology and tactics used for scanning, such as canines and human intelligence in conjunction with large scale, nonintrusive inspection systems.

(d) ELEMENTS.—The plan under subsection (b) shall include the following information:

(1) Benchmarks for achieving incremental progress towards 100 percent high-throughput scanning within the next 6 years of commercial and passenger vehicles and freight rail traffic entering the United States at land ports of entry and rail-border crossings along the border with

corresponding projected incremental improvements in scanning rates by fiscal year and rationales for the specified timeframes for each land port of entry.

(2) Estimated costs, together with an acquisition plan, for achieving the 100 percent high-throughput scanning rate within the timeframes specified in paragraph (1), including acquisition, operations, and maintenance costs for large-scale, nonintrusive inspection systems or similar technology, and associated costs for any necessary infrastructure enhancements or configuration changes at each port of entry. Such acquisition plan shall promote, to the extent practicable, opportunities for entities that qualify as small business concerns (as defined under section 3(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(a)).

(3) Any projected impacts, as identified by the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, on the total number of commercial and passenger vehicles and freight rail traffic entering at land ports of entry and rail-border crossings where such systems are in use, and average wait times at peak and non-peak travel times, by lane type if applicable, as scanning rates are increased.

(4) Any projected impacts, as identified by the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, on land ports of entry and rail-border crossings border security operations as a result of implementation actions, including any changes to the number of U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers or their duties and assignments.

(e) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the submission of the plan under subsection (b), and biennially thereafter for the following 6 years, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit a report to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives that describes the progress implementing the plan and includes—

(1) an inventory of large-scale, nonintrusive inspection systems or similar technology operated by U.S. Customs and Border Protection at each land port of entry;

(2) for each system or technology identified in the inventory required under paragraph (1)—

(A) the scanning method of such system or technology;

(B) the location of such system or technology at each land port of entry that specifies whether in use in pre-primary, primary, or secondary inspection area, or some combination of such areas;

(C) the percentage of commercial and passenger vehicles and freight rail traffic scanned by such system or technology; and

(D) seizure data directly attributed to scanned commercial and passenger vehicles and freight rail traffic;

(3) the total number of commercial and passenger vehicles and freight rail traffic entering at each land port of entry at which each system or technology is in use, and information on average wait times at peak and non-peak travel times, by lane type if applicable;

(4) a description of the progress towards reaching the benchmarks referred to in subsection (d)(1), and an explanation if any of such benchmarks are not achieved as planned;

(5) a comparison of actual costs (including information on any awards of associated contracts) to estimated costs set forth in subsection (d)(2);

(6) any realized impacts, as identified by the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, on land ports of entry and rail-border crossings operations as a result of implementation actions, including any changes to the number of U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers or their duties and assignments;

(7) any proposed changes to the plan and an explanation for such changes, including changes made in response to any Department of Homeland Security research and development findings or changes in terrorist or transnational criminal organizations tactics, techniques, or procedures; and

(8) any challenges to implementing the plan or meeting the benchmarks, and plans to mitigate any such challenges.

Amend the title so as to read: ''An Act to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop a plan to increase to 100 percent the rates of scanning of commercial and passenger vehicles and freight rail entering the United States at land ports of entry along the border using large-scale, non-intrusive inspection systems to enhance border security, and for other purposes.''.

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New Mexico?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the original request of the gentlewoman from New Mexico?

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERMISSION FOR COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY TO FILE SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT ON H.R. 5828, DHS ILLICIT CROSS-BORDER TUNNEL DEFENSE ACT

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security be authorized to file a supplemental report on the bill, H.R. 5828.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New Mexico?

There was no objection.

DESIGNATING ROOM H–150 OF THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL AS ''THE JOSEPH H. RAINEY ROOM'' TO HONOR THE HISTORIC LIFE, CAREER, AND LEGACY OF REPRESENTATIVE JOSEPH RAINEY OF SOUTH CAROLINA ON THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS SEATING AS A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. BROWN of Maryland. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure be discharged from further consideration of House Resolution 1253 and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1253

Whereas Joseph Hayne Rainey was born enslaved on June 21, 1832, in Georgetown, South Carolina;

Whereas South Carolina prohibited the education of Black Americans, and instead of a formal education, Joseph H. Rainey learned the barbering trade from his father, Edward Rainey;

Whereas Edward Rainey used profits from his work as a barber to buy his and his family's freedom in the early 1840's;

Whereas Joseph H. Rainey eventually moved with his family to Charleston, South Carolina;

Whereas in 1859, Joseph H. Rainey married his wife, Susan, with whom he had three children, Joseph, Herbert, and Olive;

Whereas in 1861, Joseph H. Rainey was conscripted by the Confederate Army and worked as a ship's steward aboard a Confederate vessel which secretly carried goods to the Union Navy;

Whereas during the Civil War, in 1862, Joseph H. Rainey and his wife and family escaped to Bermuda, a British colony that had abolished slavery in 1834, where he undertook successful entrepreneurial endeavors with his wife;

Whereas in 1866 Joseph Rainey and his family moved back to Charleston, South Carolina after the Civil War had ended;

Whereas Joseph H. Rainey co-founded the state Republican Party and represented Georgetown, South Carolina on the Party's central committee;

Whereas Joseph H. Rainey participated in the South Carolina State constitutional convention in 1868;

Whereas Joseph H. Rainey won election to the House of Representatives in 1870 and was the first African American to serve in the House of Representatives;

Whereas Joseph H. Rainey was sworn in as a member of the House of Representatives on December 12, 1870 to represent the 1st District of South Carolina in the Forty-First Congress;

Whereas Joseph H. Rainey became the first African American to preside over the House of Representatives on April 29, 1874;

Whereas Joseph H. Rainey served with distinction on several committees, including the Committee on Freedmen's Affairs, the committee handling all legislation concerning formerly enslaved people;

Whereas Joseph H. Rainey implored Congress to provide more resources for education, calling for a federal, publicly funded school system to develop the ''future lawmakers and rulers of our country'';

Whereas Joseph H. Rainey spoke on the House floor in support of a $1 million appropriation to protect voting rights in the South, which was later approved;

Whereas Joseph H. Rainey called for decisive federal action to end widespread violence in the former Confederacy, advocating for passage of the Ku Klux Klan Act of 1871;

Whereas Joseph H. Rainey spoke extensively on the floor of the House of Representatives about discrimination he faced as a sitting Member of Congress, advocating for a civil rights act to end discrimination on juries, in schools, on transportation, and in public accommodations;

Whereas Joseph H. Rainey departed the House of Representatives on March 3, 1879 following electoral backlash against Reconstruction;

Whereas Joseph H. Rainey was the longest-serving African American Member of Congress during the Reconstruction period;

Whereas Joseph H. Rainey was appointed a special agent of the United States Department of the Treasury in South Carolina in 1879 following his Congressional service;

Whereas Joseph H. Rainey is now commemorated in the United States Capitol in an exhibit unveiled on December 4, 2020 by the Speaker of the House, highlighting his legacy and the foundation he laid for generations of lawmakers; and

Whereas the Historian and the Clerk of the House of Representatives published a historical record in September 2020 entitled ''‘We Are in Earnest for Our Rights’: Rainey and the Struggle for Reconstruction'', chronicling the legacy of Representative Joseph Rainey: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That room H-150 of the United States Capitol is designated as ''The Joseph H. Rainey Room'' to honor the historic life, career, and legacy of Representative Joseph Rainey of South Carolina on the 150th anniversary of his seating as a member of the House of Representatives.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CORRECTING THE ENROLLMENT OF S. 1869

Mr. BROWN of Maryland. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 51) correcting the enrollment of S. 1869, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

S. CON. RES. 51

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That in the enrollment of S. 1869, an Act to require the disclosure of ownership of high-security space leased to accommodate a Federal agency, and for other purposes, the Secretary of the Senate shall, in section 4(c)(3) of the Act, strike ''thereafter for years'' and insert ''thereafter for 9 years''.

The concurrent resolution was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ORANGE BOOK TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2019

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 1503) to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act regarding the list under section 505(j)(7) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, and for other purposes, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the Senate amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendment:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Orange Book Transparency Act of 2020''.

SEC. 2. ORANGE BOOK MODERNIZATION.

(a) SUBMISSION OF PATENT INFORMATION FOR BRAND NAME DRUGS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (1) of section 505(b) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355(b)) is amended to read as follows:

''(b)(1)(A) Any person may file with the Secretary an application with respect to any drug subject to the provisions of subsection (a). Such persons shall submit to the Secretary as part of the application—

''(i) full reports of investigations which have been made to show whether such drug is safe for use and whether such drug is effective in use;

''(ii) a full list of the articles used as components of such drug;

''(iii) a full statement of the composition of such drug;

''(iv) a full description of the methods used in, and the facilities and controls used for, the manufacture, processing, and packing of such drug;

''(v) such samples of such drug and of the articles used as components thereof as the Secretary may require;

''(vi) specimens of the labeling proposed to be used for such drug;

''(vii) any assessments required under section 505B; and

''(viii) the patent number and expiration date of each patent for which a claim of patent infringement could reasonably be asserted if a person not licensed by the owner of the patent engaged in the manufacture, use, or sale of the drug, and that—

''(I) claims the drug for which the applicant submitted the application and is a drug substance (active ingredient) patent or a drug product (formulation or composition) patent; or

''(II) claims a method of using such drug for which approval is sought or has been granted in the application.

''(B) If an application is filed under this subsection for a drug, and a patent of the type described in subparagraph (A)(viii) is issued after the filing date but before approval of the application, the applicant shall amend the application to include the patent number and expiration date.''.

(b) SUBSEQUENT SUBMISSION OF PATENT INFORMATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 505(c)(2) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355(c)(2)) is amended—

(A) by inserting before the first sentence the following: ''Not later than 30 days after the date of approval of an application submitted under subsection (b), the holder of the approved application shall file with the Secretary the patent number and the expiration date of any patent described in subsection (b)(1)(A)(viii), except that a patent that is identified as claiming a method of using such drug shall be filed only if the patent claims a method of use approved in the application. If a patent described in subsection (b)(1)(A)(viii) is issued after the date of approval of an application submitted under subsection (b), the holder of the approved application shall, not later than 30 days after the date of issuance of the patent, file the patent number and the expiration date of the patent, except that a patent that claims a method of using such drug shall be filed only if approval for such use has been granted in the application.'';

(B) in the first sentence following the sentences added by subparagraph (A), by striking ''which claims the drug for which'' and all that follows through ''of the drug.'' and inserting ''described in subsection (b)(1)(A)(viii).'';

(C) in the second sentence following the sentences added by subparagraph (A), by inserting after ''could not file patent information under subsection (b) because no patent'' the following: ''of the type for which information is required to be submitted in subsection (b)(1)(A)(viii)''; and

(D) by adding at the end the following: ''Patent information that is not the type of patent information required by subsection (b)(1)(A)(viii) shall not be submitted under this paragraph.''.

(2) UPDATING LIST.—Clause (iii) of section 505(j)(7)(A) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355(j)(7)) is amended by striking ''(b) or''.

(c) LISTING OF EXCLUSIVITIES.—Subparagraph (A) of section 505(j)(7) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355(j)(7)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(iv) For each drug included on the list, the Secretary shall specify any exclusivity period that is applicable, for which the Secretary has determined the expiration date, and for which such period has not yet expired, under—

''(I) clause (ii), (iii), or (iv) of subsection (c)(3)(E);

''(II) clause (iv) or (v) of paragraph (5)(B);

''(III) clause (ii), (iii), or (iv) of paragraph (5)(F);

''(IV) section 505A;

''(V) section 505E;

''(VI) section 527(a); or

''(VII) subsection (u).''.

(d) ORANGE BOOK UPDATES WITH RESPECT TO INVALIDATED PATENTS.—

(1) AMENDMENT.—Section 505(j)(7) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355(j)(7)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(D) In the case of a listed drug for which the list under subparagraph (A)(i) includes a patent for such drug, and any claim of the patent has been cancelled or invalidated pursuant to a final decision issued by the Patent Trial and Appeal Board of the United States Patent and Trademark Office or by a court, from which no appeal has been, or can be, taken, if the holder of the applicable application approved under subsection (c) determines that a patent for such drug, or any patent information for such drug, no longer meets the listing requirements under this section—

''(i) the holder of such approved application shall notify the Secretary, in writing, within 14 days of such decision of such cancellation or invalidation and request that such patent or patent information, as applicable, be amended or withdrawn in accordance with the decision issued by the Patent Trial and Appeal Board or a court;

''(ii) the holder of such approved application shall include in any notification under clause (i) information related to such patent cancellation or invalidation decision and submit such information, including a copy of such decision, to the Secretary; and

''(iii) the Secretary shall, in response to a notification under clause (i), amend or remove patent or patent information in accordance with the relevant decision from the Patent Trial and Appeals Board or court, as applicable, except that the Secretary shall not remove from the list any patent or patent information before the expiration of any 180-day exclusivity period under paragraph (5)(B)(iv) that relies on a certification described in paragraph (2)(A)(vii)(IV).''.

(2) APPLICABILITY.—Subparagraph (D) of section 505(j)(7) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355(j)(7)), as added by paragraph (1), applies only with respect to a decision described in such subparagraph that is issued on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

(e) REVIEW AND REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, shall—

(1) solicit public comment regarding the types of patent information that should be included on, or removed from, the list under section 507(j)(7) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355(j)(7)); and

(2) transmit to Congress a summary of such comments and actions the Food and Drug Administration is considering taking, if any, in response to public comment pursuant to paragraph (1) about the types of patent information that should be included or removed from such list.

(f) GAO REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States (referred to in this section as the ''Comptroller General'') shall submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report on the patents included in the list published under section 505(j)(7) of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355(j)(7)) that claim an active ingredient or formulation of a drug in combination with a device that is used for delivery of such drug, including an analysis of such patents and their claims.

(2) CONTENT.—The Comptroller General shall include in the report under paragraph (1)—

(A) data on—

(i) the number of patents included in the list published under section 505(j)(7) of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355(j)(7)) that claim the active ingredient or formulation of a drug in combination with a device that is used for delivery of the drug, and that together claim the finished dosage form of the drug; and

(ii) the number of claims with respect to each patent included in the list published under such section 505(j)(7) that claim a device that is used for the delivery of the drug, but do not claim such device in combination with an active ingredient or formulation of a drug;

(B) an analysis of the listing of patents described in subparagraph (A)(ii), including the timing of listing such patents in relation to patents described in subparagraph (A)(i), and the effect listing the patents described in subparagraph (A)(ii) has on market entry of one or more drugs approved under section 505(j) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act as compared to the effect of not listing the patents described in subparagraph (A)(ii); and

(C) recommendations about which kinds of patents relating to devices described in subparagraph (A)(i) should be submitted to the Secretary of Health and Human Services for inclusion on the list under section 505(j)(7) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and which patents should not be required to be so submitted in order to reduce barriers to approval and market entry.

(g) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 505 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)(3)(E), by striking ''clause (A) of subsection (b)(1)'' each place it appears and inserting ''subsection (b)(1)(A)(i)''; and

(2) in subsection (j)(2)(A)(vi), by striking ''clauses (B) through (F) of subsection (b)(1)'' and inserting ''clauses (ii) through (vi) of subsection (b)(1)(A)''.

Mrs. DINGELL (during the reading). Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the original request of the gentlewoman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SAFEGUARDING THERAPEUTICS ACT

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 5663) to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to give authority to the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, to destroy counterfeit devices, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the Senate amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendment:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Safeguarding Therapeutics Act''.

SEC. 2. AUTHORITY TO DESTROY COUNTERFEIT DEVICES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 801(a) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 381(a)) is amended—

(1) in the fourth sentence, by inserting ''or counterfeit device'' after ''counterfeit drug''; and

(2) by striking ''The Secretary of the Treasury shall cause the destruction of'' and all that follows through ''liable for costs pursuant to subsection (c).'' and inserting the following: ''The Secretary of the Treasury shall cause the destruction of any such article refused admission unless such article is exported, under regulations prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury, within 90 days of the date of notice of such refusal or within such additional time as may be permitted pursuant to such regulations, except that the Secretary of Health and Human Services may destroy, without the opportunity for export, any drug or device refused admission under this section, if such drug or device is valued at an amount that is $2,500 or less (or such higher amount as the Secretary of the Treasury may set by regulation pursuant to section 498(a)(1) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1498(a)(1))) and was not brought into compliance as described under subsection (b). The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall issue regulations providing for notice and an opportunity to appear before the Secretary of Health and Human Services and introduce testimony, as described in the first sentence of this subsection, on destruction of a drug or device under the seventh sentence of this subsection. The regulations shall provide that prior to destruction, appropriate due process is available to the owner or consignee seeking to challenge the decision to destroy the drug or device. Where the Secretary of Health and Human Services provides notice and an opportunity to appear and introduce testimony on the destruction of a drug or device, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall store and, as applicable, dispose of the drug or device after the issuance of the notice, except that the owner and consignee shall remain liable for costs pursuant to subsection (c).''.

(b) DEFINITION.—Section 201(h) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 321(h)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraphs (1), (2), and (3) as clauses (A), (B), and (C), respectively; and

(2) after making such redesignations—

(A) by striking ''(h) The term'' and inserting ''(h)(1) The term''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) The term 'counterfeit device' means a device which, or the container, packaging, or labeling of which, without authorization, bears a trademark, trade name, or other identifying mark or imprint, or any likeness thereof, or is manufactured using a design, of a device manufacturer, processor, packer, or distributor other than the person or persons who in fact manufactured, processed, packed, or distributed such device and which thereby falsely purports or is represented to be the product of, or to have been packed or distributed by, such other device manufacturer, processor, packer, or distributor.''.

Mrs. DINGELL (during the reading). Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading of the amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the original request of the gentlewoman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

LIFESPAN RESPITE CARE REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2020

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Commerce be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 8906) to amend title XXIX of the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the program under such title relating to lifespan respite care, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 8906

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Lifespan Respite Care Reauthorization Act of 2020''.

SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF LIFESPAN RESPITE CARE PROGRAM.

(a) DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING.—Section 2904 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300ii–3) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 2904. DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Each State agency awarded a grant or cooperative agreement under section 2902 shall report such data, information, and metrics as the Secretary may require for purposes of—

''(1) evaluating State programs and activities funded pursuant to such grant or cooperative agreement, including any results pursuant to section 2902(d)(2)(B)(xii); and

''(2) identifying effective programs and activities funded pursuant to section 2902.

''(b) REPORT.—Not later than October 1, 2023, the Secretary shall submit a report to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives regarding the outcomes of the programs and activities funded pursuant to section 2902, including any effective programs and activities identified.''.

(b) FUNDING.—Section 2905 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300ii–4) is amended by striking ''title'' and all that follows through the period and inserting ''title, $10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2020 through fiscal year 2024.''.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SCARLETT'S SUNSHINE ON SUDDEN UNEXPECTED DEATH ACT

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (S. 1130) to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve the health of children and help better understand and enhance awareness about unexpected sudden death in early life, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1130

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Scarlett's Sunshine on Sudden Unexpected Death Act''.

SEC. 2. AMENDMENT TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE ACT.

Part B of title XI of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 241 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in the part heading, by striking ''**SUDDEN INFANT DEATH SYNDROME**'' and inserting ''**SUDDEN UNEXPECTED INFANT DEATH, SUDDEN INFANT DEATH SYNDROME, AND SUDDEN UNEXPECTED DEATH IN CHILDHOOD**''; and

(2) by inserting before section 1122 the following:

''SEC. 1121. ADDRESSING SUDDEN UNEXPECTED INFANT DEATH AND SUDDEN UNEXPECTED DEATH IN CHILDHOOD.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may develop, support, or maintain programs or activities to address sudden unexpected infant death and sudden unexpected death in childhood, including by—

''(1) continuing to support the Sudden Unexpected Infant Death and Sudden Death in the Young Case Registry of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other fatality case reporting systems that include data pertaining to sudden unexpected infant death and sudden unexpected death in childhood, as appropriate, including such systems supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration, in order to—

''(A) increase the number of States and jurisdictions participating in such registries or systems; and

''(B) improve the utility of such registries or systems, which may include—

''(i) making summary data available to the public in a timely manner on the internet website of the Department of Health and Human Services, in a manner that, at a minimum, protects personal privacy to the extent required by applicable Federal and State law; and

''(ii) making the data submitted to such registries or systems available to researchers, in a manner that, at a minimum, protects personal privacy to the extent required by applicable Federal and State law; and

''(2) awarding grants or cooperative agreements to States, Indian Tribes, and Tribal organizations for purposes of—

''(A) supporting fetal and infant mortality and child death review programs for sudden unexpected infant death and sudden unexpected death in childhood, including by establishing such programs at the local level;

''(B) improving data collection related to sudden unexpected infant death and sudden unexpected death in childhood, including by—

''(i) improving the completion of death scene investigations and comprehensive autopsies that include a review of clinical history and circumstances of death with appropriate ancillary testing; and

''(ii) training medical examiners, coroners, death scene investigators, law enforcement personnel, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, emergency department personnel, and others who perform death scene investigations with respect to the deaths of infants and children, as appropriate;

''(C) identifying, developing, and implementing best practices to reduce or prevent sudden unexpected infant death and sudden unexpected death in childhood, including practices to reduce sleep-related infant deaths;

''(D) increasing the voluntary inclusion, in registries established for the purpose of conducting research on sudden unexpected infant death and sudden unexpected death in childhood, of samples of tissues or genetic materials from autopsies that have been collected pursuant to Federal or State law and for which the parent or guardian has provided informed consent for inclusion in such registries; or

''(E) disseminating information and materials to health care professionals and the public on risk factors that contribute to sudden unexpected infant death and sudden unexpected death in childhood, which may include information on risk factors that contribute to sleep-related sudden unexpected infant death or sudden unexpected death in childhood.

''(b) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a grant or cooperative agreement under subsection (a)(2), a State, Indian Tribe, or Tribal organization shall submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require, including information on how such State will ensure activities conducted under this section are coordinated with other federally-funded programs to reduce infant mortality, as appropriate.

''(c) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall provide technical assistance to States, Tribes, and Tribal organizations receiving a grant or cooperative agreement under subsection (a)(2) for purposes of carrying out the program in accordance with this section.

''(d) REPORTING FORMS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, as appropriate, encourage the use of sudden unexpected infant death and sudden unexpected death in childhood reporting forms developed in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to improve the quality of data submitted to the Sudden Unexpected Infant Death and Sudden Death in the Young Case Registry, and other fatality case reporting systems that include data pertaining to sudden unexpected infant death and sudden unexpected death in childhood.

''(2) UPDATE OF FORMS.—The Secretary shall assess whether updates are needed to the sudden unexpected infant death investigation reporting form used by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in order to improve the use of such form with other fatality case reporting systems supported by the Department of Health and Human Services, and shall make such updates as appropriate.

''(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) SUDDEN INFANT DEATH SYNDROME.—The term 'sudden infant death syndrome' means a sudden unexpected infant death that remains unexplained after a thorough case investigation.

''(2) SUDDEN UNEXPECTED INFANT DEATH.—The term 'sudden unexpected infant death' means the sudden death of an infant under 1 year of age that when first discovered did not have an obvious cause. Such term includes such deaths that are explained, as well as deaths that remain unexplained (which are known as sudden infant death syndrome).

''(3) SUDDEN UNEXPECTED DEATH IN CHILDHOOD.—The term 'sudden unexpected death in childhood' means the sudden death of a child who is at least 1 year of age but not more than 17 years of age that, when first discovered, did not have an obvious cause. Such term includes such deaths that are explained, as well as deaths that remain unexplained (which are known as sudden unexplained death in childhood).

''(4) SUDDEN UNEXPLAINED DEATH IN CHILDHOOD.—The term 'sudden unexplained death in childhood' means a sudden unexpected death in childhood that remains unexplained after a thorough case investigation.

''(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For the purpose of carrying out this section, there is authorized to be appropriated $12,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2025.''.

SEC. 3. REPORT TO CONGRESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act and biennially thereafter, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report that contains, with respect to the reporting period—

(1) information regarding the incidence and number of sudden unexpected infant death and sudden unexpected death in childhood (including the number of such infant and child deaths that remain unexplained after investigation), including, to the extent practicable—

(A) a summary of such information by racial and ethnic group, and by State;

(B) aggregate information obtained from death scene investigations and autopsies; and

(C) recommendations for reducing the incidence of sudden unexpected infant death and sudden unexpected death in childhood;

(2) an assessment of the extent to which various approaches of reducing and preventing sudden unexpected infant death and sudden unexpected death in childhood have been effective; and

(3) a description of the activities carried out under section 1121 of the Public Health Service Act (as added by section 2).

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms ''sudden unexpected infant death'' and ''sudden unexpected death in childhood'' have the meanings given such terms in section 1121 of the Public Health Service Act (as added by section 2).

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MRS. DINGELL

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I have an amendment at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Strike all after section 1 and insert the following:

SECTION 2. AMENDMENT TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE ACT.

Part B of title XI of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 241 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in the part heading, by striking ''**SUDDEN INFANT DEATH SYNDROME**'' and inserting ''**SUDDEN UNEXPECTED INFANT DEATH, SUDDEN INFANT DEATH SYNDROME, AND SUDDEN UNEXPECTED DEATH IN CHILDHOOD**''; and

(2) by inserting before section 1122 the following:

"SEC. 1121. ADDRESSING SUDDEN UNEXPECTED INFANT DEATH AND SUDDEN UNEXPECTED DEATH IN CHILDHOOD.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may develop, support, or maintain programs or activities to address sudden unexpected infant death and sudden unexpected death in childhood, including by—

''(1) continuing to support the Sudden Unexpected Infant Death and Sudden Death in the Young Case Registry of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other fatality case reporting systems that include data pertaining to sudden unexpected infant death and sudden unexpected death in childhood, as appropriate, including such systems supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration, in order to—

''(A) increase the number of States and jurisdictions participating in such registries or systems; and

''(B) improve the utility of such registries or systems, which may include—

''(i) making summary data available to the public in a timely manner on the internet website of the Department of Health and Human Services, in a manner that, at a minimum, protects personal privacy to the extent required by applicable Federal and State law; and

''(ii) making the data submitted to such registries or systems available to researchers, in a manner that, at a minimum, protects personal privacy to the extent required by applicable Federal and State law; and

''(2) awarding grants or cooperative agreements to States, Indian Tribes, and Tribal organizations for purposes of—

''(A) supporting fetal and infant mortality and child death review programs for sudden unexpected infant death and sudden unexpected death in childhood, including by establishing such programs at the local level;

''(B) improving data collection related to sudden unexpected infant death and sudden unexpected death in childhood, including by—

''(i) improving the completion of death scene investigations and comprehensive autopsies that include a review of clinical history and circumstances of death with appropriate ancillary testing; and

''(ii) training medical examiners, coroners, death scene investigators, law enforcement personnel, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, emergency department personnel, and others who perform death scene investigations with respect to the deaths of infants and children, as appropriate;

''(C) identifying, developing, and implementing best practices to reduce or prevent sudden unexpected infant death and sudden unexpected death in childhood, including practices to reduce sleep-related infant deaths;

''(D) increasing the voluntary inclusion, in registries established for the purpose of conducting research on sudden unexpected infant death and sudden unexpected death in childhood, of samples of tissues or genetic materials from autopsies that have been collected pursuant to Federal or State law and for which the parent or guardian has provided informed consent for inclusion in such registries;

''(E) disseminating information and materials to health care professionals and the public on risk factors that contribute to sudden unexpected infant death and sudden unexpected death in childhood, which may include information on risk factors that contribute to sleep-related sudden unexpected infant death or sudden unexpected death in childhood; or

''(F) providing information, referrals, or peer or follow-up support services to families who have experienced sudden unexpected infant death or sudden unexpected death in childhood.

''(b) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a grant or cooperative agreement under subsection (a)(2), a State, Indian Tribe, or Tribal organization shall submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require, including information on how such State will ensure activities conducted under this section are coordinated with other federally-funded programs to reduce infant and child mortality, as appropriate.

''(c) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall provide technical assistance to States, Tribes, and Tribal organizations receiving a grant or cooperative agreement under subsection (a)(2) for purposes of carrying out the program in accordance with this section.

''(d) REPORTING FORMS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, as appropriate, encourage the use of sudden unexpected infant death and sudden unexpected death in childhood reporting forms developed in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to improve the quality of data submitted to the Sudden Unexpected Infant Death and Sudden Death in the Young Case Registry, and other fatality case reporting systems that include data pertaining to sudden unexpected infant death and sudden unexpected death in childhood.

''(2) UPDATE OF FORMS.—The Secretary shall assess whether updates are needed to the sudden unexpected infant death investigation reporting form used by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in order to improve the use of such form with other fatality case reporting systems supported by the Department of Health and Human Services, and shall make such updates as appropriate.

''(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) SUDDEN INFANT DEATH SYNDROME.—The term 'sudden infant death syndrome' means a sudden unexpected infant death that remains unexplained after a thorough case investigation.

''(2) SUDDEN UNEXPECTED INFANT DEATH.—The term 'sudden unexpected infant death' means the sudden death of an infant under 1 year of age that when first discovered did not have an obvious cause. Such term includes such deaths that are explained, as well as deaths that remain unexplained (which are known as sudden infant death syndrome).

''(3) SUDDEN UNEXPECTED DEATH IN CHILDHOOD.—The term 'sudden unexpected death in childhood' means the sudden death of a child who is at least 1 year of age but not more than 17 years of age that, when first discovered, did not have an obvious cause. Such term includes such deaths that are explained, as well as deaths that remain unexplained (which are known as sudden unexplained death in childhood).

''(4) SUDDEN UNEXPLAINED DEATH IN CHILDHOOD.—The term 'sudden unexplained death in childhood' means a sudden unexpected death in childhood that remains unexplained after a thorough case investigation.

''(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For the purpose of carrying out this section, there is authorized to be appropriated $12,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026.''.

SEC. 3. REPORT TO CONGRESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act and biennially thereafter, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report that contains, with respect to the reporting period—

(1) information regarding the incidence and number of sudden unexpected infant death and sudden unexpected death in childhood (including the number of such infant and child deaths that remain unexplained after investigation), including, to the extent practicable—

(A) a summary of such information by racial and ethnic group, and by State;

(B) aggregate information obtained from death scene investigations and autopsies; and

(C) recommendations for reducing the incidence of sudden unexpected infant death and sudden unexpected death in childhood;

(2) an assessment of the extent to which various approaches of reducing and preventing sudden unexpected infant death and sudden unexpected death in childhood have been effective; and

(3) a description of the activities carried out under section 1121 of the Public Health Service Act (as added by section 2).

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms ''sudden unexpected infant death'' and ''sudden unexpected death in childhood'' have the meanings given such terms in section 1121 of the Public Health Service Act (as added by section 2).

Mrs. DINGELL (during the reading). Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading of the amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

The amendment was agreed to.

The bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1215

HONORING ROSALYN SMITH CARTER'S 50 YEARS OF MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCACY

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Commerce be discharged from further consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 1181) honoring Rosalyn Smith Carter's 50 years of mental health advocacy, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1181

Whereas Rosalynn Smith Carter, since 1970, when her husband, future President of the United States Jimmy Carter, was a candidate for Governor of Georgia, has been a leading advocate for raising awareness about mental health and the ability of people with mental health disorders to recover and live happy and fulfilling lives;

Whereas Mrs. Carter emerged as a national driving force for mental health when, during Jimmy Carter's presidential administration, Mrs. Carter became the active honorary chair of the President's Commission on Mental Health;

Whereas the work of President Carter's Commission on Mental Health resulted in passage of the Mental Health Systems Act of 1980, which offered reforms to publicly funded mental health programs;

Whereas, in 1982, President and Mrs. Carter founded The Carter Center, which is dedicated to improving the quality of life for people in the United States and in the developing world through programs that promote peace and health;

Whereas, from 1985 to 2016, Mrs. Carter hosted the annual Rosalynn Carter Symposium on Mental Health Policy, bringing together national leaders in the mental health community to discuss a specific topic each year, including promoting access to appropriate and affordable behavioral health care services, improving the quality of such services, and reducing the stigma and isolation associated with mental health disorders and substance use disorders;

Whereas The Carter Center's Mental Health Program, established in 1990 and continuing under the leadership and guidance of Mrs. Carter, strives to build consensus in order to effect positive change in mental health and substance use policy and systems, with a focus on vulnerable populations, including children and the elderly;

Whereas, in 1996, Mrs. Carter established the Rosalynn Carter Fellowships for Mental Health Journalism, which have provided training and support to more than 220 journalists in the United States and abroad to report accurately and sensitively about and reduce the stigma surrounding mental health disorders, mental health care, mental health law and policy, and related issues;

Whereas Mrs. Carter, in 2008, played a key role in supporting the passage of the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act, which helps ensure that mental health disorders and substance use disorders are covered by insurance at parity with other illnesses;

Whereas Mrs. Carter, who has long been a champion of the physical and mental health, strength, and resilience of family caregivers, established the Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving in 1987, where she continues to serve as President of the Board of Directors;

Whereas, throughout Mrs. Carter's 50 years of advocacy for mental health, she has been an effective champion for the elimination of stigma and discrimination against people with mental health disorders, which are among the most common health conditions around the world; and

Whereas, at 93 years of age, Mrs. Carter continues her devoted work to improving the lives of those affected by mental health disorders and substance use disorders in the United States and around the world: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) hereby expresses its profound gratitude, on behalf of the people of the United States, to Rosalynn Smith Carter for her lifetime of accomplishments and commitment on behalf of those affected by mental health disorders and substance use disorders;

(2) recognizes, praises, and appreciates the improvements in well-being and the betterment of society Mrs. Carter's contributions have engendered; and

(3) encourages all people of the United States to follow Mrs. Carter's example of putting compassion into action through a lifetime of service to humanity.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MRS. DINGELL

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I have an amendment to the text at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following:

That the House of Representatives—

(1) hereby expresses its profound gratitude, on behalf of the people of the United States, to Rosalynn Smith Carter for her lifetime of accomplishments and commitment on behalf of those affected by mental health disorders and substance use disorders;

(2) recognizes, praises, and appreciates the improvements in well-being and the betterment of society Mrs. Carter's contributions have engendered; and

(3) encourages all people of the United States to follow Mrs. Carter's example of putting compassion into action through a lifetime of service to humanity.

Mrs. DINGELL (during the reading). Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading of the amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

The amendment was agreed to.

The resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

AMENDMENT TO THE PREAMBLE OFFERED BY MRS. DINGELL

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I have an amendment to the preamble at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas Rosalynn Smith Carter, since 1970, when her husband, future President of the United States Jimmy Carter, was a candidate for Governor of Georgia, has been a leading advocate for raising awareness about mental health and the ability of people with mental health disorders to recover and live happy and fulfilling lives;

Whereas Mrs. Carter emerged as a national driving force for mental health when, during Jimmy Carter's presidential administration, Mrs. Carter became the active honorary chair of the President's Commission on Mental Health;

Whereas the work of President Carter's Commission on Mental Health resulted in passage of the Mental Health Systems Act of 1980, which offered reforms to publicly funded mental health programs;

Whereas, in 1982, President and Mrs. Carter founded The Carter Center, which is dedicated to improving the quality of life for people in the United States and in the developing world through programs that promote peace and health;

Whereas, from 1985 to 2016, Mrs. Carter hosted the annual Rosalynn Carter Symposium on Mental Health Policy, bringing together national leaders in the mental health community to discuss a specific topic each year, including promoting access to appropriate and affordable behavioral health care services, improving the quality of such services, and reducing the stigma and isolation associated with mental health disorders and substance use disorders;

Whereas The Carter Center's Mental Health Program, established in 1991 and continuing under the leadership and guidance of Mrs. Carter, strives to build consensus in order to effect positive change in mental health and substance use policy and systems, with a focus on vulnerable populations, including children and the elderly;

Whereas, in 1996, Mrs. Carter established the Rosalynn Carter Fellowships for Mental Health Journalism, which have provided training and support to more than 220 journalists in the United States and abroad to report accurately and sensitively about and reduce the stigma surrounding mental health disorders, mental health care, mental health law and policy, and related issues;

Whereas Mrs. Carter, in 2008, played a key role in supporting the passage of the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act, which helps ensure that mental health disorders and substance use disorders are covered by insurance at parity with other illnesses;

Whereas Mrs. Carter, who has long been a champion of the physical and mental health, strength, and resilience of family caregivers, established the Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving in 1987, where she continues to serve as Chair of the Advisory Board;

Whereas, throughout Mrs. Carter's 50 years of advocacy for mental health, she has been an effective champion for the elimination of stigma and discrimination against people with mental health disorders, which are among the most common health conditions around the world; and

Whereas, at 93 years of age, Mrs. Carter continues her devoted work to improving the lives of those affected by mental health disorders and substance use disorders in the United States and around the world: Now, therefore, be it

Mrs. DINGELL (during the reading). Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading of the amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

The amendment to the preamble was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CLARA BARTON POST OFFICE BUILDING

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Oversight and Reform be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 4988) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14 Walnut Street in Bordentown, New Jersey, as the ''Clara Barton Post Office Building'', and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HORSFORD). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4988

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CLARA BARTON POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14 Walnut Street in Bordentown, New Jersey, shall be known and designated as the ''Clara Barton Post Office Building''.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to

be a reference to the ''Clara Barton Post Office Building''.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SENIOR AIRMAN DANIEL MILLER POST OFFICE BUILDING

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Oversight and Reform be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 5123) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 476 East Main Street in Galesburg, Illinois, as the ''Senior Airman Daniel Miller Post Office Building'', and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5123

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SENIOR AIRMAN DANIEL MILLER POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 476 East Main Street in Galesburg, Illinois, shall be known and designated as the ''Senior Airman Daniel Miller Post Office Building''.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the ''Senior Airman Daniel Miller Post Office Building''.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GEORGE H. BACEL POST OFFICE BUILDING

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Oversight and Reform be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 5451) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 599 East Genesse Street in Fayetteville, New York, as the ''George H. Bacel Post Office Building'', and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5451

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. GEORGE H. BACEL POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 599 East Genesse Street in Fayetteville, New York, shall be known and designated as the ''George H. Bacel Post Office Building''.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the ''George H. Bacel Post Office Building''.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DIONNE PHILLIPS BAGSBY POST OFFICE BUILDING

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Oversight and Reform be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 5562) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4650 East Rosedale Street in Fort Worth, Texas, as the ''Dionne Phillips Bagsby Post Office Building'', and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5562

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. DIONNE PHILLIPS BAGSBY POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4650 East Rosedale Street in Fort Worth, Texas, shall be known and designated as the ''Dionne Phillips Bagsby Post Office Building''.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the ''Dionne Phillips Bagsby Post Office Building''.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MARY ANN SHADD CARY POST OFFICE DEDICATION ACT

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Oversight and Reform be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 5972) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 500 Delaware Avenue, Suite 1, in Wilmington, Delaware, as the ''Mary Ann Shadd Cary Post Office'', and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5972

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Mary Ann Shadd Cary Post Office Dedication Act''.

SEC. 2. MARY ANN SHADD CARY POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 500 Delaware Avenue, Suite 1, in Wilmington, Delaware, shall be known and designated as the ''Mary Ann Shadd Cary Post Office''.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the ''Mary Ann Shadd Cary Post Office''.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

WOODIE RUCKER-HUGHES POST OFFICE BUILDING

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Oversight and Reform be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 5983) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4150 Chicago Avenue in Riverside, California, as the ''Woodie Rucker-Hughes Post Office Building'', and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5983

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. WOODIE RUCKER-HUGHES POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4150 Chicago Avenue in Riverside, California, shall be known and designated as the ''Woodie Rucker-Hughes Post Office Building''.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the ''Woodie Rucker-Hughes Post Office Building''.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MARC LEE MEMORIAL POST OFFICE BUILDING

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Oversight and Reform be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 6016) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14955 West Bell Road in Surprise, Arizona, as the ''Marc Lee Memorial Post Office Building'', and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6016

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. MARC LEE MEMORIAL POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14955 West Bell Road in Surprise, Arizona, shall be known and designated as the ''Marc Lee Memorial Post Office Building''.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the ''Marc Lee Memorial Post Office Building''.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

J. HOWARD COBLE POST OFFICE BUILDING

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Oversight and Reform be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 6161) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1585 Yanceyville Street, Greensboro, North Carolina, as the ''J. Howard Coble Post Office Building'', and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6161

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. J. HOWARD COBLE POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1585 Yanceyville Street, Greensboro, North Carolina, shall be known and designated as the ''J. Howard Coble Post Office Building''.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the ''J. Howard Coble Post Office Building''.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

WILLIAM ''JACK'' JACKSON EDWARDS III POST OFFICE BUILDING

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Oversight and Reform be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 6418) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 509 Fairhope Avenue in Fairhope, Alabama, as the ''William 'Jack' Jackson Edwards III Post Office Building'', and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6418

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. WILLIAM "JACK" JACKSON EDWARDS III POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 509 Fairhope Avenue in Fairhope, Alabama, shall be known and designated as the ''William 'Jack' Jackson Edwards III Post Office Building''.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the ''William 'Jack' Jackson Edwards III Post Office Building''.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SENATOR JACK HILL POST OFFICE BUILDING

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Oversight and Reform be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 7088) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 111 James Street in Reidsville, Georgia, as the ''Senator Jack Hill Post Office Building'', and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7088

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SENATOR JACK HILL POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 111 James Street in Reidsville, Georgia, shall be known and designated as the ''Senator Jack Hill Post Office Building''.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the ''Senator Jack Hill Post Office Building''.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

JESSIE FIELD SHAMBAUGH POST OFFICE BUILDING

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Oversight and Reform be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 7502) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 101 South 16th Street in Clarinda, Iowa, as the ''Jessie Field Shambaugh Post Office Building'', and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7502

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. JESSIE FIELD SHAMBAUGH POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 101 South 16th Street in Clarinda, Iowa, shall be known and designated as the ''Jessie Field Shambaugh Post Office Building''.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the ''Jessie Field Shambaugh Post Office Building''.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

TOM REID POST OFFICE BUILDING

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Oversight and Reform be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 7810) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3519 East Walnut Street in Pearland, Texas, as the ''Tom Reid Post Office Building'', and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7810

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. TILDEN VETERANS POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3519 East Walnut Street in Pearland, Texas, shall be known and designated as the ''Tom Reid Post Office Building''.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the ''Tom Reid Post Office Building''.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

JOSEPH BULLOCK POST OFFICE BUILDING

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Oversight and Reform be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 8611) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4755 Southeast Dixie

Highway in Port Salerno, Florida, as the ''Joseph Bullock Post Office Building'', and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 8611

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. JOSEPH BULLOCK POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4755 Southeast Dixie Highway in Port Salerno, Florida, shall be known and designated as the ''Joseph Bullock Post Office Building''.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the ''Joseph Bullock Post Office Building''.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EINAR ''SARGE'' H. INGMAN, JR. POST OFFICE BUILDING

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (S. 3257) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 311 West Wisconsin Avenue in Tomahawk, Wisconsin, as the ''Einar 'Sarge' H. Ingman, Jr. Post Office Building'', and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 3257

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. EINAR "SARGE" H. INGMAN, JR. POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 311 West Wisconsin Avenue in Tomahawk, Wisconsin, shall be known and designated as the ''Einar 'Sarge' H. Ingman, Jr. Post Office Building''.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the ''Einar 'Sarge' H. Ingman, Jr. Post Office Building''.

The bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AUDIE MURPHY POST OFFICE BUILDING

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (S. 3461) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2600 Wesley Street in Greenville, Texas, as the ''Audie Murphy Post Office Building'', and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 3461

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. AUDIE MURPHY POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2600 Wesley Street in Greenville, Texas, shall be known and designated as the ''Audie Murphy Post Office Building''.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the ''Audie Murphy Post Office Building''.

The bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RALPH HALL POST OFFICE

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (S. 3462) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 909 West Holiday Drive in Fate, Texas, as the ''Ralph Hall Post Office'', and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 3462

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. RALPH HALL POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 909 West Holiday Drive in Fate, Texas, shall be known and designated as the ''Ralph Hall Post Office''.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the ''Ralph Hall Post Office''.

The bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

JOSEPH G. DEMLER POST OFFICE

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (S. 4126) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 104 East Main Street in Port Washington, Wisconsin, as the ''Joseph G. Demler Post Office'', and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 4126

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. JOSEPH G. DEMLER POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 104 East Main Street in Port Washington, Wisconsin, shall be known and designated as the ''Joseph G. Demler Post Office''.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the ''Joseph G. Demler Post Office''.

The bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ROBERT L. BROWN POST OFFICE

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (S. 4684) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 440 Arapahoe Street in Thermopolis, Wyoming, as the ''Robert L. Brown Post Office'', and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 4684

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. ROBERT L. BROWN POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 440 Arapahoe Street in Thermopolis, Wyoming, shall be known and designated as the ''Robert L. Brown Post Office''.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the ''Robert L. Brown Post Office''.

The bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1230

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

(Mr. SCALISE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), my friend, the majority leader, to talk about the schedule that will be taken up next week.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for yielding, the Republican whip from the grand State of Louisiana.

As the gentleman is aware as a result of his service in previous Congresses, when we get to the last days of the Congress, it is very difficult to predict the schedule because the reason we have not already passed something is because it is controversial, and we are trying to work out an agreement.

In that context, Mr. Speaker, I am advising Members that they will not be expected to be back here to vote on any piece of legislation prior to Tuesday next at 6:30 p.m.

The reason for that is because an agreement has not been reached on either COVID–19 legislation or the omnibus for the funding of the government for the balance of the year between now and September 30.

As a result, even if an agreement were reached tomorrow, the time for the staff to put it in bill language and to file it would take us at least until Tuesday. So, there is no point in having Members here with nothing to do.

However, as I know the minority whip agrees with me, we need to get those two bills done in one form or another. I am hopeful that over the next 72, 96 hours, that there will be a lot of work being done.

I want to let the public know that in the Senate and in the House, both on the Democratic side and on the Republican side, Members are working hard to resolve the differences that still exist because I think both sides understand the critical nature of passing COVID–19 legislation where we have millions of people, millions of small businesses, millions of healthcare workers waiting for us to resolve these issues so that they can confront the challenges that COVID–19 has created both on the health side and on the economic side.

I would say that if we can get that done, that we may vote, as I said, as early as Tuesday at 6:30. But I will say that we will not leave—when I say ''leave,'' we will not adjourn the 116th Congress until we get those two bills done because they have to be done.

I thank the gentleman for the question, and that is the answer.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I agree that we need to continue these negotiations and get a resolution, and, hopefully, we will in the coming week, both on COVID relief and on the funding of government.

We have agreed on caps already. Hopefully, we will maintain that and get that done to give certainty to all of our agencies that we know how much money is involved.

It costs the Defense Department, for example, every week that we are in a continuing resolution, potentially billions of dollars just in procurement and in the loss of those efficiencies.

I share the gentleman's optimism that we can get it done. Obviously, we need to continue working through these final issues.

I do want to thank the gentleman, as we talked last week at the colloquy about the ALS Disability Insurance Access Act, and I thank the gentleman for scheduling it this week. It passed without opposition. This is one of those examples where we do work and come together and do something that actually helps people.

This will help hundreds, possibly thousands, of people struggling with ALS to be able to get access to the tools that they need that they, under the current law, are being denied. To see the House come together so overwhelmingly to do that shows that we can, when we put our minds to it, actually help people.

This will help people in all of our districts, and I thank the gentleman, again, for getting that done, getting that bill to the floor, and, ultimately, now all of us coming together to pass that bill on to the Senate and the President.

I want to again bring up the Paycheck Protection Program bill by Congressman CHABOT. This is a bill that we have been talking about at this colloquy since September. Each week that goes by, we know that there is a list—unfortunately, it is a long list—of areas where we have disagreement.

There is also a list of areas where we have full agreement if you look at the number of items where we have already decided we both, Republicans and Democrats, want to do this. Then, there are those items that we are strongly opposed to on our side or that they are strongly opposed to on their side.

I would just continue to emphasize that these small businesses can't wait for us to get agreement or never get an agreement, while there are things we can do to help them today, to save them today.

And we continue to hear the heartbreaking stories. Over 100,000 restaurants in America have closed for good. Gone. I know K-Paul's restaurant in New Orleans, one of the world-famous restaurants. International Chef Paul Prudhomme invented blackened redfish at that restaurant. It is gone.

There are too many other stories to mention. We see heartbreaking stories of a restaurant owner in Los Angeles who is being told she can't operate, and literally, in the same parking lot next to her tents are tents of a film studio that is able to operate.

It is not about science in those cases. It is about some government official picking winners and losers. Unfortunately, the losers are America's small businesses.

This needs to stop. I would just encourage the gentleman to bring the Chabot bill, a bill that has wide bipartisan support that would save small businesses. Today, we are going to lose, just today, about 150 restaurants, and that number is even higher for other small businesses. There are hundreds a day.

Friday, we will lose 150 restaurants. Saturday, we will lose 150 restaurants. Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, we will lose 150. We will lose over 700 restaurants between now and when we come back Tuesday.

We don't have to do that. If that bill was put on the floor today, it would have passed overwhelmingly, maybe unanimously, because it is an area of agreement.

This idea of holding hostage these small businesses that are dying on the vine while we try to get agreement that we haven't been able to get since August, why can't we just do the things that we agree on now while we negotiate the other things?

Some of those things will never become law, yet it is holding up the things that we agree on that would save small businesses today. 150 restaurants today will go under that shouldn't have gone under. We could have saved them.

There are thousands of jobs tied to this at Christmastime that don't need to be gone if we just pass the things we agree on while we negotiate the things we don't; because we may never get agreement on those things. But don't let it hold these families hostage. Don't let it hold these small businesses hostage.

I would just urge, again, that the gentleman bring the Chabot bill to the floor as soon as possible. We know it would pass overwhelmingly.

I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his observations.

In fact, I am for an agreement that is being worked on right now that has $300 billion, a third of the $908 billion, that is set aside for small businesses for exactly the reasons that the whip points out, that we want to make sure that we can keep as many small businesses in business as possible, which is why we ought to pass legislation.

But we are not holding small businesses hostage any more than we are holding those on unemployment hostage, any more than we are holding States and localities hostage, any more than we are holding schools hostage, any more than we are holding childcare and CDBG hostage or emergency assistance or farm aid or nutrition aid.

None of those are being held hostage. What is happening is, they all need to get resources to meet the challenges they face. That is what we believe needs to happen.

All of those need to be addressed. All of those need to be included in a bill that, hopefully, we will pass in the early part of next week.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, we will continue to push to get that relief, starting with the Chabot bill—hopefully, with other things. But at least let's bring those items that we are in agreement on to the floor. Millions of jobs are at stake.

Finally, I want to ask the majority leader about reports that have come up about a member of the Intelligence Committee, Mr. SWALWELL, having some kind of ties to a Chinese spy.

There are alarming issues that are being raised. We haven't gotten a lot of answers. I know many are asking: Was it known prior to the time he was put on the Intelligence Committee that there was this relationship with a Chinese spy?

There are also reports that the Chinese spy also was able to infiltrate his office and possibly put other spies in his office.

Was the gentleman aware? Maybe it was just the Speaker that was aware, but were you all aware of this tie to a Chinese spy prior to him being put on the committee? And why is he still on the Intelligence Committee?

I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman. I don't have the facts, but, obviously, our position is if there are facts being raised that ought to be looked at, they ought to be looked at.

But I don't have the facts, and I don't want to comment on the issue itself because I don't know enough about it to do so. But I think all due diligence will be pursued.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman, and I hope we get those answers. These are serious questions that have been raised. And we are talking about a committee that deals with the most sensitive intelligence information.

In fact, most Members of Congress don't have access to that level of intelligence that members of the Intelligence Committee get, and possibly their staffs have the ability to see some of that.

If an office was infiltrated by spies from a foreign country, especially China, at a time when we are investigating China and raising serious questions about them, these are questions that need to be answered, and I hope we get answers soon.

Mr. HOYER. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. HOYER. I didn't mention one bill that is still percolating. We passed it 335–78. The Senate passed it, I think, 86–14, or something. The National Defense Authorization Act is going to be going to the President soon. I am hopeful the President will sign it.

If he does not sign it, that will be another issue that may be considered.

On the other hand, I have indications that perhaps there will be a substantial number of Republicans who voted for the bill who may not vote to pass it over the President's veto. So, we will have that to consider as well.

I hadn't mentioned that, and I wanted to mention that that is still on the docket.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

Clearly, President Trump has expressed his concerns about some items in and not in the National Defense Authorization Act. Ultimately, we will see soon if he signs it or vetoes it. He has, obviously, got to weigh all of those decisions, as he is doing right now.

Mr. HOYER. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I hope he will sign it. I know he has concerns about a section that Senator INHOFE said ought not to be in the bill. But whether it should or should not, it is not in the bill, and the conferees determined that it should not be in the bill.

As the gentleman knows, this has great consequences for our national security and for our troops. I would hope the gentleman would, and I would, urge the President to sign the bill.

I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman, and I will continue to work on these items that we need to get resolved—hopefully, will get resolved—in the coming days.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1245

HONORING JOSEPH H. RAINEY

(Mr. CLYBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my appreciation to this august body for unanimously passing H. Res. 1253. I also want to thank Speaker NANCY PELOSI and Minority Leader KEVIN MCCARTHY for their support of the passage of this resolution.

This resolution honors the life and legacy of Joseph H. Rainey, a fellow South Carolinian, who, on December 12, 1870, became the first African American to serve in the United States House of Representatives, blazing the trail that provided the path that I am honored to be on today.

With the passage of this resolution, the House permanently recognizes Congressman Rainey's remarkable achievement 150 years ago from Saturday. They are honoring him by renaming H–150 on the first floor of this building, which is the room in which he met at the time he was a member of the Committee on Indian Affairs, on which he served from 1873 to 1875.

NATIONAL IMPAIRED DRIVING PREVENTION MONTH

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, December is National Impaired Driving Prevention Month. We know that during this time of the year, with so many holidays in a compact amount of time, that the risk is higher. Indeed, over one-third of traffic-related deaths in the United States involve a drunk driver; and we know that, throughout the holiday season, drunk-driving crashes increase.

For example, last December nearly 1,000 people in the U.S. died in alcohol-related crashes, and 35 of those happened on Christmas Day. Every single one of those deaths is preventable.

I sincerely thank our law enforcement and our first responders for being there on the scene during these tragedies and working to prevent them from being worse and from having these impaired accidents happen. However, the decision to drive sober comes from taking personal responsibility for all of our actions and making travel plans before your holiday celebrations begin.

Let's keep every seat at our Christmas tables and at our holiday tables during this time of year safely filled with family and friends instead of tragedy. Let's make sure our loved ones are making smart choices and help them out to be smart and safe during this time of the year.

COVID RELIEF

(Mr. TAKANO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to demand that my Republican colleagues put aside partisan politics and provide relief to the millions of Americans whose lives have been upended by the COVID–19 pandemic.

Our country is facing the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression, yet the Federal Government has failed to aid the families struggling to keep food on the table, the small businesses shutting their doors and laying off employees during the holiday season, and State and local governments trying to keep communities afloat.

It has been 9 long months since we passed meaningful legislation to support our fellow Americans. This is a dangerously long time, and the pandemic has only gotten worse.

It is our responsibility to meet the scale and scope of this pandemic and get people the help they have been desperately waiting for. We must work together and finally pass a relief bill immediately. Families cannot afford to wait another day.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY HARLEY ROUDA

(Mr. PHILLIPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PHILLIPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor my dear friend and colleague, Representative HARLEY ROUDA, on the occasion of his 59th birthday today.

Congressman ROUDA is as passionate as he is principled, and a reliable voice of reason during very unreasonable times. In celebrating him today, I am reminded of the words of Teddy Roosevelt, who wrote:

> It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have

done them better. The credit belongs to the man who was actually in the arena, who actually strives to do the deeds, and spends himself in a worthy cause.

Mr. Speaker, just like the former President, I know that HARLEY's place will always be in the arena and never on the sidelines.

Annalise joins my family and yours—Kaira, Trace, Avery, Shea, and Dylan—in wishing HARLEY a happy and healthy birthday and a whole lot of love.

WORKING FOR THE INLAND EMPIRE

(Mr. AGUILAR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. AGUILAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the Inland Empire of southern California, the region my family has called home for generations.

As we stand here today, people in communities like mine and across the country are hurting. They are mourning loved ones, they are missing paychecks, and they are wondering what their government is doing to make the situation better.

Right now, Democrats in Congress are laser focused on providing the relief the American people need in this pandemic. We have been for months. We passed the CARES Act in March, but we didn't stop there. We passed the Heroes Act in May, and then we passed the updated Heroes Act.

We have continued to work on behalf of the American people, and our Republican counterparts have not met us halfway. Senate Republicans' months of inaction have led to a dire situation across this country, and it is unconscionable for them to continue to do nothing as we approach the holidays.

We have lost valuable time, and it is my hope that, using the bipartisan framework, we can reach an agreement as soon as possible. To do nothing in the face of this much pain is unacceptable. The people we represent have entrusted us with an enormous responsibility, and we cannot let them down.

COVID–19 RELIEF

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, the COVID–19 pandemic has devastated our country for 9 months now. More than 15 million Americans have been infected. Nearly 300,000 are dead. Our economy is on the ropes. Folks are struggling just to get by, and Democrats have been trying to pass a relief package for months.

Last week, Republicans finally met us at the table to negotiate a solution. We need to get this deal done. It must address the urgent needs of the American people by providing direct cash payments for working families; stronger unemployment payments; relief for cities and towns; new resources for the frontline workers who are keeping our communities safe; and funding for testing, vaccines, hospitals, and community health centers so we can end this pandemic and get back to our lives.

The American people sent us here to work for them. They have waited for far too long for Congress to pass a new relief package. Let's get this done on their behalf and let's not leave Washington until we do.

GOVERNMENT OVERREACH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to agree with the comments that have just been made. We do need to come together and provide assistance to the American public, to those who have been so extremely adversely affected, not merely by COVID, but by the, in some cases, very offensive uses of government power and actually unauthorized power in numerous circumstances taking away people's freedom for the first time in American history when they were not sick, quarantining people who were not ill, shutting down businesses, picking and choosing winners and losers among businesses. Yet we, as Republicans, have been begging our friends across the aisle, come on, there are things ready to be used—readymade.

The money that was appropriated several months ago—there is over $100 billion, maybe a whole lot more than $100 billion—is waiting to be used, but the deadlines in that initial bill have been exceeded. So all we need to do is say that money is available again. It is still just sitting there.

As businesses are going bankrupt, my friends across the aisle are allowing them to go bankrupt and basically holding them for hostage and saying: We are going to keep letting businesses go broke; we are not going to let you use the money that is sitting there waiting to be used to help these businesses to save them from bankruptcy and to keep them in business; and we are going to let them keep going out of business because we want a big comprehensive bill.

As I have said previously here, comprehensive bills is a term that means we want to make it so big that we can stuff all kinds of pork in there that you won't be able to find before we pass it. That is what is meant in Congress by comprehensive bill.

We ought to avoid comprehensive bills and we ought to have rival shots addressing just what needs to be addressed and not putting everybody's favorite gift in the legislation.

So we could have agreed on that months ago. I understand the position of the majority Democrats is that there have just been so many other important things that we haven't been able to get around to agreeing with our Republican friends on the need for just providing the billions and billions of dollars that have already been appropriated and is just sitting there. We don't want to make that available because we have got all these important things.

Like last week and this week, all these important things:

Let's see, we took care of saving the lives of ceiling fans this week. So that apparently was very critical.

And, last week, we knew that people were suffering immeasurably from COVID, and rather than, again, helping with funding, we took up a marijuana bill that will provide tax incentives and actually some money and some assistance in getting marijuana going stronger nationally. It wasn't a bill that said that we are going to let the States decide for themselves. It was a Federal bill to really push not medical marijuana, but just marijuana.

So the answer, according to the majority, to COVID and businesses going bankrupt is just smoke some dope and you won't be nearly as anxious about the loss of your business, the suffering of your family, and the isolation of our senior citizens.

I have had senior citizen places of residence directors just weep every day as they see the seniors not able to spend time with their families, in isolation.

□ 1300

We didn't address any of that, but we did take care of making dope available through the bill—at least the House has so far. It is doubtful the Senate will take those things up. And we also voted to take care of—as I understand, it just pertains to one place—where tigers are kept.

But as my friend Dr. DESJARLAIS pointed out—he was looking at the numbers—and in the time that it took in this Chamber to vote on that bill, there were more people that died of COVID than have died from tigers in the last 25 years.

Mr. Speaker, I know there are disagreements on priorities. Apparently, there was a need felt to do this bill to address the need of tigers, but we still left the needs of those dying from COVID, and businesses that are dying because of the restrictions, we left all of that undone to take care of ceiling fans, tigers, marijuana.

Mr. Speaker, we could get a bill done rather quickly. And I understand we should have had a bill done 2 years ago—it would have been easy to make it bipartisan—on funding infrastructure. We desperately need to upgrade our infrastructure. According to most engineers and studies, we have like a D-minus grade on American infrastructure. But my understanding for why we have not done a bill in the last 2 years that the Democrats have been in the majority here in the House, has been a fervent desire to avoid President Trump getting any credit for anything that really helps America. Despite that

desire of some, he has gotten an amazing amount accomplished.

So I am hoping that we can come together rather quickly—hopefully, by Monday—and we can pass a bill that at least makes available the tens of billions of dollars that is just sitting there waiting for authorization to be provided to businesses that are in trouble. And we could do that quite easily. In fact, we have got a bill that my friend, Mr. CHABOT from Ohio, had filed as the ranking member of the Committee on Small Business, and it would make the money available.

We have had our colleague, JAIME BEUTLER—I am missing the last name—but it is a discharge petition. Everybody needs to come down and sign it—I think, nearly all the Republicans have—saying, let's bring this to the floor. Let's make this money available. Hopefully, that will happen, but it hasn't happened yet.

Mr. Speaker, but all of that, as desperately serious, critically serious as it is, is still, when we look at the future of this country, the issue that stands behind the importance of having a free and fair election, because if you can't have that, the Republic ceases. We become a totalitarian government, socialist government—of course, that is a bit redundant. You can't have socialism without having a totalitarian government. And actually, what has often been referred to as a Communist Government, like in China, the Chinese Communist Party, the Soviet Union, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, they really weren't communists. We always refer to them as the communists, but communism doesn't exist if there is a government. True communism is where the government fades away, everybody shares and shares alike.

But we have seen, historically, when a rather sad life of a person named Marx, following up on Engels, came up with this idea. He was completely wrong. He didn't foresee the rising of a middle class such as we have had here in the United States. Anybody that didn't foresee that and try to concoct a form of government without foreseeing that is not somebody that should be followed.

And just as Dostoevsky said—and Solzhenitsyn quoted him in ''The Gulag Archipelago''—in Dostoevsky's case, he was speaking theoretically. In Solzhenitsyn's case, having spent many years in a Gulag, in a Russian prison, he was speaking not theoretically or hypothetically, but pragmatically from having been the victim of the government. But Dostoevsky said the problem with socialism is not economic. The problem is socialism is atheism. You cannot have a true socialist government unless the government becomes God.

And there is no place for the one living God that our—nearly all of the Founders acknowledged. Even Ben Franklin—who is sometimes said to be a deist, which he clearly wasn't—said in his autobiography that he was moved to the contrary over a discussion about deism. But he made very clear he believed in God, he believed that divine providence, God's providence controlled things. And that is not a deist, for those that haven't studied deism.

Mr. Speaker, nonetheless, we are in grave danger. And if the Supreme Court does not take up and resolve this dispute over whether or not we will continue to have a Democratic-Republican form of government, then it will cease, and there will not be another Republican elected because of the circumstances that have arisen. And I will address that further.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my friend from Texas (Mr. FLORES).

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF EDYTHE KENGLA SWANN

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th birthday of Edythe Kengla Swann.

Edythe was born on December 5, 1920, in Tucson, Arizona, to Herman Kengla and Joaquina Robles Kengla. She is a descendant of Arizona's pioneering ranching and railroad families.

Since childhood, Edythe was instilled with a pioneering spirit. Her grandfather, Bernabe Robles, was an immigrant from Mexico who established a stagecoach shop in Arizona that ultimately became the Robles Ranch in the mid-1880s. The ranching complex ultimately comprised over one million acres, making it one of the largest ranches in Arizona.

Edythe graduated from the University of Arizona in 1941 with a degree in home economics. As the United States entered World War II, more women were being called upon to fill jobs that were previously held by men. Edythe was determined to take advantage of the new opportunities opening around her. Enamored by the possibility of travel, Edythe became a flight attendant for American Airlines.

Flight attendant school was an immersive environment of rigorous training in a multitude of subjects. Edythe became well-versed in the technical side of flying. She excelled in meteorology and was well-prepared for difficult emergencies during flight. Edythe also took great interest in the maintenance of the DC–3 aircraft and was very knowledgeable about the inner workings of many cockpit systems.

Edythe diligently worked to meet industry expectations and create an atmosphere that eased the concerns of her passengers while promoting the airline industry. She loved being a pioneer in a profession that represented new opportunities to women and allowed them to find freedom through adventure.

While Edythe was stationed with American Airlines in El Paso, she met Richard Earnest Swann, a lieutenant in the Army stationed at Fort Bliss. Edythe and Richard quickly fell in love and were married in 1945. At the time, airlines required that flight attendants be unmarried, so Edythe made the difficult choice to leave behind her beloved career for her new future as a wife and a mother.

Together, Edythe and Richard raised five children and started their own business, representing lamp and home furnishing manufacturers in Dallas, Texas. Edythe worked hard to assist her husband at the store while raising their children and becoming an active member of their community. She served as a precinct chairman and was an avid volunteer at her church for local events.

In 2017, Edythe was widowed after 72 years of marriage. Together, Richard and Edythe had 5 children, 12 grandchildren, and 15 great-grandchildren.

Today, Edythe remains independent in mindset and in ability. Her pioneering spirit and moral resolve continue to serve as an inspiration to her family.

Edythe Kengla Swann's life story exemplifies the opportunity afforded to descendants of immigrants who pursue challenging careers that help this country grow and whose self-determination and commitment to family help to maintain the strength of American culture.

Mr. Speaker, Edythe Kengla Swann has lived a long life filled with joy, love, and above all, a pioneering spirit. I am proud to recognize her on this joyous occasion and know that her family and friends love her and are proud of her. I wish Edythe many more years of health and happiness in the future.

As I close today, I urge all Americans to continue praying for their country during these difficult times for our military men and women who protect us from external threats and for our first responders who protect us here at home.

Mr. Speaker, I hope all Americans have a great holiday season and a very happy and joyous Christmas.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I thank my Aggie friend and appreciate that shout-out to what sounds like an incredible lady.

Mr. Speaker, my friend will be missed here in Congress. We have had some disagreements, but I know his heart and I know he has always wanted what is best for the country. And I greatly appreciate that heart.

Mr. Speaker, perhaps I should have gotten more than two hours sleep last night. I was thinking ''Jaime Beutler Herrera'' but it didn't sound right. It is JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER.

Mr. Speaker, she has a discharge petition, and I hope that if there is any Republican that has not signed onto JAIME's discharge petition that they will come do that as soon as possible. We need to get that money. It has already been appropriated. It is just sitting there. Why could we not agree on that?

I know that Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, I know Mr. CHABOT, they would be fine if

the Democrats put somebody else's name on what they have done. That is fine. Put Democrat names on it, but let's get it done. We are more concerned about helping people that need the money after having their businesses shut down, curtailed, cut back. Let's get that money to them, and I hope that we will.

With regard to this election, on the one hand, you have got COVID that is killing people. On the other hand, you have fraud that is killing a nation. And we know it is serious because YouTube did everything they could—as did Google and Twitter—to censor the public dialogue about different types of fraud, investigations into the Biden family. They did everything they could to hurt President Trump and to help candidate Biden.

Now we see today, YouTube is going to start preventing any discussion about fraud. So we know it is serious when YouTube has to take the position as the totalitarian censor—basically, fascist censor, that the high-tech industry has chosen to be—that they are going to eliminate anybody's ability using their public forum to discuss the facts of fraud.

And for those networks that say that they are unfounded, they need to pull their heads out of the orifice, hole in the ground, whatever, in which their heads are stuck because there have been hundreds and hundreds of affidavits. There are thousands of examples of fraud in the elections.

And as John Fund said, the biggest fraud about elections is the statement ''there is no fraud in elections.'' It is not new. It has just never, ever, anywhere in the history of the world, been utilized in so many ways and with so many ballots as it has been in this election.

□ 1315

We have seen the gutless actions of some courts, some places that have refused to take up critically important issues that will mean this country has a future as a republic or will end that future and move us into the socialism that brings totalitarianism. But they refuse to take it up.

You can understand, if you have no courage, then you would rather not take up an issue that might make some people mad, even though, as I figured out early in my career as a judge, if I was going to run from the job I ran for, I shouldn't even be there.

Most judges haven't figured that out. Some are appointed, but they were appointed after they sought those positions. Well, if you are going to run from the job you sought, you shouldn't have that job. Just be honest and caring enough for the country that if you don't have the guts to do the job, resign and go. You can mediate. You can arbitrate.

There is great money in arbitration. I had gone through the 3 days of study and testing by the only institute at the time that prepared people for international arbitration. There was great money in it. But at the same time, I was told by a Member of Congress, now is the time you need to start raising money.

Do I start raising money to run for Congress, or do I pursue the extremely lucrative and rewarding career in international arbitration? Well, I took the road less traveled by, and that has made all the difference. Not a fun difference, but this is an important job. The judiciary is an important job.

So, after the court refused to take up MIKE KELLY's suit—totally legitimate, should have been taken up—we have a lawsuit that was filed a couple of nights ago by the Texas attorney general. It is styled State of Texas v. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, State of Georgia, State of Michigan, and State of Wisconsin, so four defendants.

As Article III of our Constitution says: ''In all cases affecting Ambassadors, other public ministers and consuls, and those in which a State shall be party, the Supreme Court shall have original jurisdiction. In all the other cases before mentioned,'' which is up in the first part of Section 2, ''the Supreme Court shall have appellate jurisdiction, both as to law and fact, with such exceptions, and under such regulations as the Congress shall make.''

But this is a case, as the Constitution says, where the Constitution provides for original jurisdiction in the Supreme Court. That means you don't go to a lower court—not a magistrate, not a district judge, not a court of appeals—but you go straight to the Supreme Court.

Now, I had filed things before in the Supreme Court, but I had never filed an original action. I didn't realize until this week that on something the Supreme Court is said by the Constitution to have original jurisdiction, you can't just file. You have to come in and beg: Oh, please, please, Mount Zion judges, please allow me leave so I can file this petition because you have original jurisdiction over this controversy, according to Article III of our Constitution.

Apparently, the Supreme Court has previously decreed that if you want to file an original action, according to the Constitution, in our Court, you have to come in and beg us for leave to file such an original action. We may or may not let you file that lawsuit, even though the Constitution makes clear it should be, it has to be, originally in our Court and no other.

So, the State of Texas, by and through its attorney general, filed this action. But they start by filing a motion for leave to file bill of complaint. So, that is what they filed. They go through the motions of doing what is required. Then, we get to the page that says ''Motion for Leave to File Bill of Complaint,'' and it sets out—I am not going to read the whole thing, but I think it is important that people understand exactly what is involved here.

''As set forth in the accompanying brief and complaint, the 2020 election suffered from significant and unconstitutional irregularities in the defendant States:

''Nonlegislative actors' purported amendments to States' duly enacted election laws, in violation of the Electors Clause's vesting State legislatures with plenary authority regarding the appointment of Presidential electors.''

In other words, the Constitution makes clear the State legislatures shall determine the appointment of the electors for that State as part of the electoral college and nobody else. Not a judge, not a State or Federal judge, not a commissioner, not a secretary of state, not a Governor, but the legislature has to make that call of the State.

''Intrastate differences in the treatment of voters, with more favorable allotted to voters—whether lawful or unlawful—in areas administered by local government under Democrat control and with populations with higher ratios of Democrat voters than other areas of defendant States.

''The appearance of voting irregularities in the defendant States that would be consistent with the unconstitutional relaxation of ballot-integrity protections in those States' election laws.''

Those are three points made as to why this election suffered from unconstitutional irregularities in those States that have been sued.

All of these flaws, even the violations of State election law, violate one or more of the Federal requirements for elections. That includes equal protection, due process, the Electors Clause, and thus arise under Federal law.

So, it is not just that the Supreme Court, under our Constitution, clearly has the original jurisdiction over this suit where a State sues another State or States, but this involves a Federal question. In case some on the Supreme Court are asleep or do not understand their obligation, it is a Federal question as well as being a State versus State.

In Bush v. Gore in 2000, the Court said: ''Significant departure from the legislative scheme for appointing Presidential electors presents a Federal constitutional question.''

The plaintiff, the State of Texas, ''respectfully submits that the foregoing types of electoral irregularities exceed the hanging-chad saga of the 2000 election in their degree of departure from both State and Federal law. Moreover, these flaws cumulatively preclude knowing who legitimately won the 2020 election and threaten to cloud all future elections.''

I hope the Supreme Court—well, I know some of the Justices will take particular interest and give attention to that. This is for the future of the Republic.

As Eric Metaxas points out in his book, quoting from Franklin, when he was asked, what have you given us? after the Constitutional Convention in 1787 in Philadelphia. He replied: A republic, Madam, if you can keep it.

I think the title of Eric's book is ''If You Can Keep It.''

Well, the answer will be determined in this case. If the Supreme Court refuses to take it up and do their job, then the answer is, we kept it from 1789 until 2020. Then, because we had people in States that didn't do their job, or overzealously became partisan and allowed circumstances, even participating in circumstances, to permit fraud and to destroy the election process.

Any Republican that thinks, ''Oh, well, if I sound good, and I don't stand up for the Constitution here, then I will be in good stead to be the Republican nominee. Then, I can win the Presidency in 2024,'' the news for those people is, if this fraud in this election is not addressed and these unconstitutional schemes are not struck down by the highest court in the country, there is not going to be a Republican elected again. It is not going to happen.

So, it is rather important. History will judge us accordingly. From the looks of what the Supreme Court did to Congressman KELLY's case, in refusing to take it up, there is grave concern, appropriately, that the Supreme Court is not going to do their jobs, that they will choose to go down in history as the Supreme Court that allowed this Nation to lapse as a republic.

There were rumors that the Chief Justice flipped his vote in the ObamaCare case because he became very sensitive to the allegation that if ObamaCare was overturned, he would become the most political Chief Justice since Taney in the Dred Scott case. The rumor was that he flipped and chose to uphold that decision, making him the most political Chief Justice in American history, probably more so than Taney.

In Taney's case—regardless of how you pronounce it—in that case, that decision helped pave the way for the Civil War because the Supreme Court did not do their job in protecting the rights listed in the Constitution in the Bill of Rights. Likewise, this country is headed for some very dire times if the Supreme Court doesn't resolve this controversy and the fraud that underlies it.

Again, for those that say there was no fraud, wake up, look at the evidence. There is sworn testimony. There is video footage.

Another thing that people need to understand about the judicial system, it is not a new idea that one party to a suit would have possession of evidence that would show that party should lose the lawsuit. That has happened throughout jurisprudence.

Over the years, in the common law, a doctrine, a legal doctrine, developed called spoliation. The doctrine is basically this: If one party is in possession of evidence, or possesses the capacity to preserve evidence, and they mix that evidence in with other evidence that prevents a party from being able to show that it should win the day, then that doctrine of spoliation can be utilized.

If there is a jury which is the factfinder, the judge can tell the jury that it may consider the fact that the defendant in this case had possession of documents that would either prove or disprove the plaintiff's case, and since the defendant refuses to produce them or put them in a manner that they could not be identified or destroyed them, then you may consider that that evidence supported the plaintiff's case.

□ 1330

And you can even take judicial notice, a court can, of a situation like that. The Supreme Court could take judicial notice of that, that one party has the evidence that will prove the plaintiff's case, and they refuse to allow it to be found; or, as we saw in Pennsylvania, we had a Supreme Court order to preserve evidence, and the eight actors in Pennsylvania basically ignored the order so they could continue to hide evidence. That should be evidence and should have judicial notice taken that that evidence is the fact that they continue to hide what would have proved the plaintiff's case.

So, as the brief says, taken together, these flaws affect outcome determinative numbers of popular votes in a group of States that cast outcome determinative numbers of electoral votes. This Court—and I am talking about the Supreme Court since they have original jurisdiction—should grant leave to file the complaint and ultimately enjoin the use of unlawful election results without review and ratification by the defendant States' legislatures and remand the defendant States' respective legislatures to appoint Presidential electors in a manner consistent with Electors Clause, and pursuant to 3 U.S.C. section 2.

So that is the motion for leave to file.

And then we get to the bill of complaint that Texas is seeking to have permission to file.

Oh, please, oh, most holy Supreme Court, please, lower yourselves to allow us to be heard before your Court of original jurisdiction. Please, oh, please.

How many times do we need to say it to affect the high and mighty Supreme Court?

Well, the bill of complaint actually has an appropriate quote from John Adams: ''That form of government, which is best contrived to secure an impartial and exact execution of the laws, is the best of republics.'' And that is exactly what we will be losing if we do not preserve the integrity of this election.

The bill of complaint goes on to say: ''Our country stands at an important crossroads. Either the Constitution matters and must be followed, even when some officials consider it inconvenient or out of date, or it is simply a piece of parchment on display at the National Archives. We ask the Court to choose the former.

''Lawful elections are at the heart of our constitutional democracy. The public, and indeed the candidates themselves, have a compelling interest in ensuring that the selection of a President—any President—is legitimate. If that trust is lost, the American Experiment will founder. A dark cloud hangs over the 2020 Presidential election.

''Here is what we know. Using the COVID–19 pandemic as a justification, government officials in the defendant States of Georgia, Michigan, and Wisconsin, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania . . . usurped their legislatures' authority and unconstitutionally revised their State's election statutes. They accomplished these statutory revisions through executive fiat or friendly lawsuits, thereby weakening ballot integrity. Finally, these same government officials flooded the defendant States with millions of ballots to be sent through the mails, or placed in drop boxes, with little or no chain of custody and, at the same time, weakened the strongest security measures protecting the integrity of the vote—signature verification and witness requirements.''

And I might inject here, in the State of Georgia, on Saturday night, being there with the President, DAVID PERDUE, KELLY LOEFFLER, and so many other wonderful Georgia officials—and I do love the State of Georgia. It seemed like I spent 20 years there because I was in the Army, but my 4 years at Fort Benning, I grew to love the people of Georgia. We still have many great friends in the State, so it is always a pleasure to have an excuse to go back to Georgia.

That was a rough time in our history. People did not appreciate those of us that wore the uniform. We didn't have it as bad as those who had recently come back from Vietnam, but it was a very unpleasant time to be in uniform. There were times when we were ordered not to wear it; yet, generally, the people of Georgia were just superb.

I was there and Vernon Jones showed me an envelope he had gotten from America Votes, sometimes referred to as Stacey Abrams' group, but it had a return address on the envelope here in Washington, D.C., and apparently they sent out millions of these requests for absentee ballots.

It seemed like something like that ought to be reserved to a governmental entity so that those are not sent to people who shouldn't be getting them, that government ought to update their records and make sure they are not sending them to dead people or to people who have been moved to other States, other jurisdictions for 40 years, as we have already heard in some cases.

There was all this information about absentee ballots and pushing the recipient to fill it out, send it in, and even a postage-paid envelope was provided, which provides something of value to somebody for them to send in that absentee request.

But I just thought: Wow. So Washington, D.C., has gotten involved in the State of Georgia's election in trying to skew the vote there. It is really interesting.

But getting back to this complaint by the State of Texas, it says: ''The only date that is mandated under the Constitution is . . . January 20, 2021, U.S. Constitution Amendment 20.

''Against that background, the State of Texas . . . brings this action against defendant States based on the following allegations:

''1. Plaintiff State challenges defendant States' administration of the 2020 election under the Electors Clause of Article II, Section 1, Clause 2, and the 14th Amendment of the Constitution.

''2. This case presents a question of law: Did defendant States violate the Electors Clause, or, in the alternative, the 14th Amendment, by taking—or allowing—nonlegislative actions to change the election rules that would govern the appointment of Presidential electors?

''3. Those unconstitutional changes opened the door to election irregularities in various forms. Plaintiff State alleges that each of the defendant States flagrantly violated constitutional rules governing the appointment of Presidential electors. In doing so, seeds of deep distrust have been sown across the country. In the spirit of Marbury v. Madison, this Court's attention is profoundly needed to declare what the law is and to restore public trust in this election.

''4. As Justice Gorsuch observed recently: ''Government is not free to disregard the Constitution in times of crisis. . . . Yet, recently, during the COVID pandemic, certain States seem to have ignored these long-settled principles.''

That is in the case of Roman Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn, New York v. Cuomo, a case from 2020. The petition or the complaint says that this case is no different now.

''5. Each of the defendant States acted in a common pattern. State officials, sometimes through pending litigation, for example, settling 'friendly' suits, and sometimes unilaterally by executive fiat, announced new rules for the conduct of the 2020 election that were inconsistent with existing State statutes defining what constitutes a lawful vote.

''6. Defendant States also failed to segregate ballots in a manner that would permit accurate analysis to determine which ballots were cast in conformity with the legislative set rules and which were not. This is especially true of the mail-in ballots in these States by waiving, lowering, and otherwise failing to following the State statutory requirements for signature validation and other processes for ballot security, the entire body of such ballots is now constitutionally suspect and may not be legitimately used to determine allocation of the defendant States' Presidential electors.''

I interject here. A good example, and this also brings in the doctrine of spoliation, where, in Georgia, you had people lie to get people out of the area in which ballots were being counted, and then once they were all out and there was no big water leak, there may have been a slight leak in a commode, but they were moved out. You can see the video. But then out from under tables comes suitcases full of ballots that these people who are unwatched to ensure that these were legitimate ballots, they started running them through and counting them.

Well, my understanding is they have refused to make those ballots available for examination. And that is where spoliation comes in. They have got the evidence; they refuse to produce it; so the presumption should be made by the Supreme Court, if those ballots were produced by the people who have sole control over them, they would prove the plaintiff's case; therefore, plaintiff's case is proven and the results are no longer viable and valid.

The complaint goes on: ''Each of the defendant States acted in a common pattern.''

I touched on that.

''7. The rampant lawlessness arising out of defendant States' unconstitutional acts is described in a number of currently pending lawsuits in defendant States or in public view including:

''Dozens of witnesses testifying under oath about the physical blocking and kicking out of Republican poll challengers; thousands of the same ballots run multiple times through tabulators; mysterious late night dumps of thousands of ballots at tabulation centers; illegally backdating thousands of ballots; signature verification procedures ignored''—and I would interject, and those put in batches where it could not be determined what signatures came with that ballot. That ought to lead to spoliation evidence—''signature verification procedures ignored; more than 173,000 ballots in the Wayne County, Michigan, center that cannot be tied to a registered voter;

''Videos of: poll workers erupting in cheers as poll challengers are removed from vote-counting centers; poll watchers being blocked from entering vote-counting centers—despite even having a court order to enter; suitcases full of ballots being pulled out from underneath tables after poll watchers were told to leave.

□ 1345

''Facts for which no independently verified reasonable explanation exists: On October 1, 2020, in Pennsylvania, a laptop and several USB drives used to program Pennsylvania's Dominion voting machines were mysteriously stolen from a warehouse in Philadelphia. The laptop and the USB drives were the only items taken, and potentially could be taken to alter vote tallies; in Michigan, which also employed the same Dominion voting system, on November 4, 2020, Michigan election officials have admitted that a purported 'glitch' caused 6,000 votes for President Trump to be wrongly switched to Democratic candidate Biden. A flash drive containing tens of thousands of votes was left unattended in the Milwaukee tabulations center in the early morning hours of November 4, 2020, without anyone aware it was not in a proper chain of custody.

''8. Nor was this court''—talking about the Supreme Court—''immune from the blatant disregard for the rule of law. Pennsylvania itself played fast and loose with its promise to this court. In a classic bait and switch, Pennsylvania used guidance from its Secretary of State to argue that this Court should not expedite review because the State would segregate potentially unlawful ballots. A court of law would reasonably rely on such a representation. Remarkably, before the ink was dry on the court's 4–4 decision, Pennsylvania changed that guidance, breaking the State's promise to the Supreme Court.''

In the October 28, 2020, decision, it said: ''We have been informed by the Pennsylvania Attorney General that the Secretary of the Commonwealth issued guidance today directing county boards of elections to segregate late-arriving ballots.''

Well, it turns out they lied to the Supreme Court. And if the Supreme Court will not have at least enough self-respect to call down a State that lies to the Court to get a ruling they want, then that is one worthless court.

It is the same problem we have had with the FISA courts and why I want to eliminate them. They didn't even have enough self-respect that when they found out they were lied to in a number of manners in order to get a warrant to spy on the Trump campaign, they didn't get upset. They didn't put anybody in jail. They didn't hold anybody in contempt. A court that worthless needs to be eliminated.

As my law school professor, David Gwynne, used to say, you know, every Federal court in America, except for one, owes its existence and jurisdiction to the U.S. Congress. That, of course, the Supreme Court. We brought them into the world, we should be able to take them out. And that should happen when they don't even have enough self-respect to enforce the truthfulness required to make that court operate.

In Republican Party versus Boockvar, November 6, 2020, a quote from that decision: ''This court was not informed that the guidance issued on October 28th, which had an important bearing on the question whether to order special treatment of the ballots in question, had been modified.''

That was from Justice Alito.

''10. The probability of former Vice President Biden winning the popular vote in the four defendant states—Georgia, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin—independently given President Trump's early lead in those States as of 3 a.m. on November 4, is less than

one in a quadrillion, or one in''—well, I am not even sure what that number is. Maybe quadrillion. I guess that is 15 zeros. ''For former Vice President Biden to win these four states collectively, the odds of that event happening decreased to less than one in a quadrillion to the fourth power.

''13. By purporting to waive or otherwise modify the existing State law in a manner that was wholly ultra vires and not adopted by each State's legislature, defendant States violated not only the electors clause, but also the elections clause, to the extent that the Article I elections clause textually applies to the Article II process of selecting Presidential electors.

''14. Plaintiff States and their voters are entitled to a Presidential election in which the votes from each of the States are counted only if the ballots are cast and counted in a manner that complies with the preexisting laws of each State. The President and vice president of the United States are the only elected officials who represent all the voters in the Nation. Voters who cast lawful ballots cannot have their votes diminished''—or the term we have heard over the last 4 years, disenfranchised—''by States that administered their 2020 Presidential elections in a manner where it is impossible to distinguish a lawful ballot from an unlawful ballot.

''15. The number of absentee and mail-in ballots that have been handled unconstitutionally in defendant States greatly exceeds the difference between the vote totals of the two candidates for President of the United States in each defendant State.

''16. In addition to injunctive relief for this election, plaintiff State seeks declaratory relief for all Presidential elections in the future. This problem is clearly capable of repetition, yet evading review. The integrity of our constitutional democracy requires that States conduct Presidential elections in accordance with the rule of law and Federal constitutional guarantees.

So that is critical.

''18. In a Presidential election, 'the impact of the votes cast in each State is affected by the votes cast for the various candidates in other States.'''

That is in the Anderson case, 460 U.S. at 795.

''The constitutional failures of defendant States injure plaintiff States because 'the right of suffrage can be denied by a debasement or dilution of the weight of a citizen's vote just as effectively as by wholly prohibiting the free exercise of the franchise.'''

And that is from Bush versus Gore.

In any event, Mr. Speaker, it is critical that the Supreme Court step up and take the jurisdiction that the Constitution requires it to take. It won't be fun and it won't be pleasurable, but it is absolutely essential that the U.S. Supreme Court do what the Constitution created them to do, take up this matter with which it has original jurisdiction and determine there were unconstitutional actions taken that affected the outcome of this election. It was not a free and fair election, and if the Supreme Court does not act accordingly, then, really, the Supreme Court is irrelevant, Congress is irrelevant; and those who would seek to hide ballots in the future, create improper ballots, count ballots multiple times, they will control the future of this country, not the Supreme Court, not Congress, but a newfangled electronic—not just electronic. They used every method known to man. It will make Tammany Hall, and has made Tammany Hall, look like Mister Rogers' Neighborhood. It is time to act. It is time preserve the Republic.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

FAREWELL TO CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. RIGGLEMAN) for 30 minutes.

Mr. RIGGLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, after 2 years of service, to address this Congress for perhaps the last time. I rise today humbled by the opportunities granted to me by this great country and the citizens of the Fifth District. That I could go from living on food stamps decades ago to serving in this hallowed body is a testament to the American Dream and the opportunity provided by this land of liberty.

I would be remiss if I did not begin this address by thanking my beautiful wife, Christine, and my three daughters, Abby, Lauren, and Lily, for their support throughout this journey. I married Christine fresh out of high school at the age of 19, and she has been my rock ever since. And to have my two new granddaughters in Washington, D.C., with me today is an overwhelming blessing.

I never intended to enter politics or subject my family to the challenges and strains that accompany public life, but they have taken on every challenge and continue to inspire me every day.

I have spent most of my life in service to this country as an enlisted and commissioned airman in the United States Air Force and working for and with intelligence community and Department of Defense organizations. I served in the Balkans during Operation Allied Force, spent time in the Middle East, and deployed immediately after 9/11 as part of a team that mission planned the first bombing runs into Afghanistan.

I was taken away from my family in service to the country I love. And while my family is with me now, I know that they made countless sacrifices to help me get to this point.

Though my time in this Chamber will be shorter than I may have hoped, I am proud of what we have accomplished. Just 2 weeks ago, this House passed H.R. 2466, the State Opioid Grant Authorization Act of 2020. A bill that might seem like a footnote in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to some can save countless lives. One of my priorities during my time in Congress has been addressing the very real crisis of opioid addiction, which has devastating consequences for families across this great Nation.

I was sitting at my desk in Congress about 1 year ago when I got the call that my cousin, Trey, had overdosed not far from where I was sitting.

I talked about this with my friend and colleague, Congressman DAVID TRONE, the Democratic party lead on the State Opioid Response Grant Authorization bill and the leader of the Freshman Working Group on Addiction. He had lost a nephew, Ian, to the scourge of addiction. We knew that something had to be done, and we came together in a bipartisan way to accomplish something great.

A special thanks to Representatives SHERRILL and ARMSTRONG for their incredible support on this legislation.

Trey and Ian, we worked to honor your memories and to help those who might not be able to help themselves.

During my time in Congress, I have worked to expand access to broadband internet in rural areas, especially in those remote areas of the Fifth District. Our rural communities need broadband access to keep up with the demands of the modern economy. Closing the digital divide is critical in enhancing economic opportunity, job creation, access to healthcare, and education in rural America.

My district carries history matched by few in this Nation. The first representative from my district was James Madison. I have used his legacy to guide me in my fight to protect constitutional principles, and I believe that his example is one that can guide all representatives in this body.

James Madison said this: ''A well instructed people alone can be a permanently free people.''

I internalized that statement into a baseline for carrying out the duties as a representative of the people, duly elected by the citizens of Virginia's Fifth District. My background as a veteran and Air Force intelligence officer employed at times by the National Security Agency and working with other government agencies taught me the value of honor, service, and integrity in all I do. It also taught me the invaluable lesson of considering the source when evaluating information from my colleagues and constituents and when fighting radicalization and disinformation campaigns.

James Madison also stated that ''knowledge will forever govern ignorance; and a people who mean to be their own governors must arm themselves with the power knowledge gives.''

A well instructed people and a knowledgeable people—pillars of a working republic. Those pillars are now being assaulted by disinformation and outlandish theories surrounding this Presidential election.

As we transition to a new administration, I implore all to consider the sources of information you receive, to fact-check diligently and to recognize that many bad actors who spread spurious and fantastical conspiracy theories under banners like QAnon, Kraken, Stop the Steal, Scamdemic, and many other emotive terms and coded language are not disseminating information rooted in knowledge, but with questionable motives. They are rooted in misunderstanding or fraud or, in some cases, ignorance.

□ 1400

To all those on the end of the disinformation firehose, please know that I am you and you are me.

Unbiased, fact-based information sustains our republic. My objective in serving my district was never to judge others, because all of us are only human. None of us has a special dispensation to rule over another.

We are common in our belief that the Constitution stops the tyrannical encroachment of a man, woman, or group claiming to have some extraordinary knowledge that allows them insights that we as individuals cannot attain.

Disinformation hinders our free exchange of ideas and creates superspreader digital viruses that create a fever of nonsense.

Disinformation operations can attack specific pillars of democracy at strategic moments: from belief in democratic elections, to trust in public health and public institutions. In technical terms, sophisticated influence operations using combinations of botlike-networks and synchronous mass posting behavior, termed ''coordinated inauthentic behavior,'' is a tactic, a tactic which disinformation peddlers such as QAnon community members use with great success to hijack the national conversation.

My 2 decades of intelligence, warfighting, and counterintelligence experience coupled with serving in the 116th Congress is why I will not allow conspiracy peddlers to hijack our ability to conduct reasonable policy discussions for the betterment of all Americans.

Just like creating a vaccine to eradicate COVID–19, we must work together to inoculate against the social contagion of disinformation, conspiracies, anti-Semitism, dehumanization, racism, deep state cabal nonsense, cults, and those grifters posing as servants of the people.

Big data, machine learning, and facts-based analysis are the ingredients for our digital vaccine. If we build that vaccine, we can encourage facts over fantasy, people over politics, love over hate, and unity over division.

I am now serving on the board of a nonpartisan organization that will utilize advanced analysis, data methodologies, and network modeling to track disinformation over social media.

If you are in the grifting and propaganda business, know that I am not going anywhere.

As I go back to my incredible life on 50 acres in the Blue Ridge Mountains, I can reflect on how I conducted myself in Congress.

My dear friend, Congressman KEVIN BRADY from Texas, told me he appreciated that I ''called balls and strikes'' even when it was not advantageous to me. To be clear, KEVIN BRADY is an example of that service and what calling balls and strikes looks like. So let me call three pitches right now.

First, I will always fight disinformation wherever I see it, hear it, or watch it. For those who spread disinformation, know that I will not stop in tracking those who push falsehoods onto decent Americans. Radicalization through disinformation has no place in the United States, and in this fight, I will not relent.

Second, working together for the betterment of the American people in a bipartisan way is not a bug, it is a feature.

Third, people are more important than party. Pandering is a political sickness.

As I reflect on the accomplishments we have made for the Fifth District, I am moved to recognize some of the many people who have made these accomplishments possible.

Esther Page and Denise Van Valkenburg are dedicated public servants who served the Fifth District from before my time in office. Regardless of the party affiliation of the Representative, they served the people of the Fifth District of Virginia exceptionally, and they should be lauded for their efforts.

To Jim Pomeroy, Steve Harvey, and Josiah Leonard, your service has not gone unnoticed.

It was never my plan to be a politician, so I should thank my staff for helping me to learn this process and do my best to serve the Fifth District.

Dave Natonski, who served as my chief of staff through good times and bad, was an invaluable asset and friend.

My current chief of staff, Haley Brady, is as competent as she is great.

A big thank you to my legislative team, without whom the legislative accomplishments could not have happened: Borden Hoskins, a financial services savant with as devastating a wit as a pen; Eli Woerpel, my right hand on everything broadband and agricultural; Jason Eagleburger, my friend and confidante, who spearheaded the China Task Force and helped with complex policy issues; Nicole Nentwich, who was my go-to for healthcare policy; and Lexi Klein, who my Fifth District constituents love and appreciate.

To my communications team, thank you for your sound advice and constant guidance.

Joe Chelak has been with me since I started my run for Congress, and his strategic leadership has been invaluable to my success.

Kate Currie has made the most of her time in my office and exhibited incredible talent.

And to Ben Mullany, without whom I would not have gotten this far, thank you.

Jimmy Keady, thank you for talking me into this craziness, and your leadership and guiding me through this beautiful and treacherous passage.

Chris Woodfin, thank you. Your counsel has been invaluable.

To the Cloakroom, thank you for putting up with me these last 2 years.

And to my congressional colleagues, where there are far too many to name and thank, know that I am not far away. I am always available for a snort of bourbon, a tipple of irreverence, and a nod to Bigfoot.

In January of next year, the Fifth District of Virginia will be represented by a new Member, who I hope will heed these lessons: that service to your district should be your priority; courage in the face of disagreement should be lauded, not ignored; and to always remember the strength of holding to your principles will last far longer than any allegiance to a position or a party.

There is an incredible dart game scene in the show ''Ted Lasso'' where Ted is vastly underestimated in a darts competition and ends up besting an arrogant opponent, a former owner of the soccer team that Ted coaches. Please watch that scene. In that scene, Ted quotes Walt Whitman: ''Be curious, not judgmental.''

Let's not throw hyperbolic darts at each other. Let's rely on facts and compassion. Let's listen together and move this country forward together.

May God bless the Commonwealth of Virginia, may God bless this Congress, and may God bless the United States of America.

And for the last time, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 4(b) of House Resolution 967, the House stands adjourned until 1:30 p.m. on Monday, December 14, 2020.

Thereupon (at 2 o'clock and 6 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, December 14, 2020, at 1:30 p.m.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Ms. WATERS: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 5001. A bill to amend the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act to clarify that the definition of a debt collector includes, in all cases, a person in a business the principal purpose of which is the enforcement of security interests; with an amendment (Rept. 116–638). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi: Committee on Homeland Security. Supplemental report on H.R. 5828. A bill to support remediation of illicit cross-border tunnels, and for other purposes (Rept. 116–471, Pt. 2).

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. WILSON of South Carolina:

H.R. 8931. A bill to impose additional sanctions with respect to Syria, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. GABBARD:

H.R. 8932. A bill to provide that for purposes of determining compliance with title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 in athletics, sex shall be determined on the basis of biological sex as determined at birth by a physician; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. CÁRDENAS (for himself, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. KINZINGER, and Mr. BURGESS):

H.R. 8933. A bill to modernize the Advanced Technology Vehicle Manufacturing Incentive program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT:

H.R. 8934. A bill to ensure that Medicaid beneficiaries have the opportunity to receive care in a home and community-based setting; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. DINGELL (for herself and Mr. MOOLENAAR):

H.R. 8935. A bill to improve dam and hydropower safety, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. DINGELL:

H.R. 8936. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide enhanced Federal matching payments for homecare worker training programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. ESHOO:

H.R. 8937. A bill to amend requirements for awarding the National Medal of Science, the National Medal of Arts, and the National Technology and Innovation Medal, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. GABBARD:

H.R. 8938. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, to establish a standardized procedure for all States to submit weekly reports on hospital policies and metrics related to the response to COVID-19, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. GABBARD:

H.R. 8939. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to protect pain-capable unborn children, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GOODEN:

H.R. 8940. A bill to prohibit offices of Congress from appointing interns who are citizens of certain countries which exert malign foreign influences in the United States; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. HALL:

H.R. 8941. A bill to secure the Federal voting rights of persons when released from incarceration; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Mr. FERGUSON):

H.R. 8942. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants to schools and school-based health centers to increase the number of behavioral health care providers in such schools and health centers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LARSON of Connecticut (for himself, Mr. COURTNEY, Mrs. HAYES, and Mr. HIMES):

H.R. 8943. A bill to direct the President to use authority under the Defense Production Act of 1950 to ensure an adequate supply equipment necessary for limiting the spread of COVID-19, to elevate the Director of the Defense Logistics Agency as the head of the COVID-19 Joint Acquisition Task Force, to require the Director of the Defense Logistics Agency to establish a system for States and localities to access covered items during a covered emergency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, and Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. MENG:

H.R. 8944. A bill to amend the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 and the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act to include leave for employees who are unable to work due to minor children in optional virtual or hybrid learning, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committees on House Administration, Oversight and Reform, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. NEGUSE:

H.R. 8945. A bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to provide flexibility with the cost share for fire management assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. OMAR:

H.R. 8946. A bill to provide emergency relief assistance under a modified Community Development Block Grant program for communities facing economic damage from civil and social crises, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. RICE of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. DUNCAN, and Mr. CUNNINGHAM):

H.R. 8947. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1101 Charlotte Street in Georgetown, South Carolina, as the ''Joseph Hayne Rainey Memorial Post Office Building''; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. RICHMOND:

H.R. 8948. A bill to authorize the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to enter into cooperative agreements with States to carry out grant programs to assist in remediation and relocation efforts relating to hazardous air pollution, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ROUZER:

H.R. 8949. A bill to authorize the President to provide disaster assistance to States and Indian Tribes under a major disaster recovery program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania (for himself and Ms. DEAN):

H.R. 8950. A bill to expand the permissible uses of amounts provided under the Coronavirus Relief Fund; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself and Mr. COLE):

H.R. 8951. A bill to empower federally recognized Indian Tribes with the option to designate restricted fee Tribal lands, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. BUCK (for himself, Mr. DUNCAN, and Mr. BIGGS):

H. Res. 1256. A resolution supporting President Trump's efforts to ensure that every legal vote is counted in the November 2020 Presidential election and to investigate and bring to justice those who perpetrate election fraud; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. DIAZ-BALART (for himself and Mr. MCCAUL):

H. Res. 1257. A resolution recognizing International Human Rights Day; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois (for himself, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. NADLER, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. PETERS, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. BEYER, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. SIRES, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Mr. COHEN, Mr. RUSH, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. POCAN):

H. Res. 1258. A resolution declaring that public transit is a national priority which requires funding equal to the level of highway funding; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. LOWENTHAL (for himself, Mr. POCAN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Ms. HAALAND, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OMAR, Mr. HIMES, Mr. RUSH, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. BONAMICI, Mrs. DEMINGS, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. MENG, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. CASE, Mr. COOPER, Mr. SIRES, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. CORREA, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. VARGAS, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. BERA, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. TRONE, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. TITUS, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. EVANS, and Mr. COSTA):

H. Res. 1259. A resolution recognizing the 72d anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the celebration of ''Human Rights Day''; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. LOWENTHAL (for himself, Mr. BEYER, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. CASTEN of Illinois, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. SIRES, Ms. PINGREE,

Mr. WELCH, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. RUSH, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. CASE, Ms. MENG, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. HAALAND, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. MCEACHIN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. KEATING, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. TONKO, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. KILMER, Mr. GOMEZ, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. NADLER, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. TRONE, Mr. PETERS, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. COHEN, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. LEVIN of California, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. CORREA, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. O'HALLERAN, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, and Mr. MCGOVERN):

H. Res. 1260. A resolution recognizing the 5th anniversary of the adoption of the international Paris Agreement on climate change; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. WILSON of South Carolina:

H.R. 8931.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Ms. GABBARD:

H.R. 8932.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Constitution including Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 (General Welfare Clause) and Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 (Necessary and Proper Clause), Article 4, Section 3, Clause 2 (Property).

By Mr. CÁRDENAS:

H.R. 8933.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 1.

All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representative.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT:

H.R. 8934.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 (relating to the power of Congress to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.)

By Mrs. DINGELL:

H.R. 8935.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mrs. DINGELL:

H.R. 8936.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. ESHOO:

H.R. 8937.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Ms. GABBARD:

H.R. 8938.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S Constitution including Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 (General Welfare Clause) and Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 (Necessary and Proper Clause), Article 4, Section 3, Clause 2 (Property)

By Ms. GABBARD:

H.R. 8939.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Constitution including Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 (General Welfare Clause) and Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 (Necessary and Proper Clause), Article 4 Section 3, Clause 2 (Property).

By Mr. GOODEN:

H.R. 8940.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. HALL:

H.R. 8941.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

By Mr. KENNEDY:

H.R. 8942.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. LARSON of Connecticut:

H.R. 8943.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Ms. MENG:

H.R. 8944.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution

By Mr. NEGUSE:

H.R. 8945.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. OMAR:

H.R. 8946.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 1

By Mr. RICE of South Carolina:

H.R. 8947.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution

By Mr. RICHMOND:

H.R. 8948.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is introduced pursuant to the powers granted to Congress under the General Welfare Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl 1), the Commerce Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl 3), and the Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. I Sec. 8 Cl. 18).

Further, this statement of constitutional authority is made for the sole purpose of compliance with clause 7 of Rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and shall have no bearing on judicial review of the accompanying bill.

By Mr. ROUZER:

H.R. 8949.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 8950.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution in that the legislation exercises legislative powers granted to Congress by that clause ''to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States or any Department or Office thereof.''

By Mr. YOUNG:

H.R. 8951.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 1185: Mr. HALL.

H.R. 1224: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.

H.R. 2279: Mrs. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. EVANS, Mr. HIMES, Mr. ALLRED, and Mr. GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 3353: Mr. SIRES.

H.R. 4022: Mr. BEYER.

H.R. 4025: Mr. CROW.

H.R. 4346: Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 4364: Mrs. NAPOLITANO and Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 4446: Mr. PHILLIPS.

H.R. 4656: Ms. SHERRILL.

H.R. 5141: Mr. CUNNINGHAM, Mr. CLAY, and Mr. RUIZ.

H.R. 5349: Mr. HALL.

H.R. 5516: Mr. VELA, Mr. SCHRADER, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. BRINDISI, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. ROUDA, Mr. CORREA, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. CISNEROS, Mr. TONKO, Ms. SLOTKIN, and Mrs. MURPHY of Florida.

H.R. 5635: Mr. FOSTER.

H.R. 5636: Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 5845: Mr. SHERMAN and Ms. WILD.

H.R. 6151: Ms. BARRAGÁN.

H.R. 6179: Mr. MCKINLEY.

H.R. 6283: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.

H.R. 6364: Mr. CRIST and Ms. FINKENAUER.

H.R. 6637: Mr. SHERMAN.

H.R. 6869: Ms. HOULAHAN.

H.R. 6958: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. DEFAZIO, and Mrs. BUSTOS.

H.R. 6994: Mrs. WAGNER.

H.R. 7375: Mr. LUETKEMEYER.

H.R. 7499: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Ms. FRANKEL, Mr. DEFAZIO, and Mr. HASTINGS.

H.R. 7960: Ms. NORTON and Ms. ESCOBAR.

H.R. 8460: Mr. BEYER.

H.R. 8598: Mr. LYNCH.

H.R. 8664: Mr. TRONE, Ms. HAALAND, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. SIRES, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, and Mr. CISNEROS.

H.R. 8702: Ms. WILD and Mr. SIRES.

H.R. 8809: Ms. MENG, Mr. DESAULNIER, and Ms. JOHNSON of Texas.

H.R. 8812: Mr. KILMER.

H.R. 8867: Mr. BUCHANAN.

H.R. 8884: Mr. DOGGETT and Mr. BEYER.

H.R. 8893: Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. RIGGLEMAN, and Ms. SPANBERGER.

H.R. 8899: Mr. TRONE.

H.R. 8903: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. NORTON, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. PRESSLEY, and Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H. Res. 1252: Mr. WALTZ, Mr. VAN DREW, and Mr. RUTHERFORD.

H. Res. 1253: Mr. VEASEY, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, and Mr. RICE of South Carolina.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

PT-158. The SPEAKER presented a petition of the Council of the District of Columbia, Washington, D.C., relative to Resolution 23-350, opposing implementation of the Department of Homeland Security's public charge rule beaus of the negative effect of the proposed rule will have on our immigrant communities' access to vital services and cost-saving initiatives that keep families healthy and on a path toward economic success; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 116th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Have compassion upon us, Mighty God, for we are weak. We strive to do good but too often miss the mark. Without Your strength, we would surely stumble and fall.

Rescue our lawmakers from those things that aren't contributing to Your glory. Give them the good sense to listen to Your guidance and obey Your precepts.

Lord, use our Senators to plant and water seeds that will bring a harvest of healing, hope, and humility to our Nation and world.

Thank You for hearing and answering our prayers, for You are always our refuge and strength.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH). The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 1 minute in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

BIDEN INVESTIGATION

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I want to remind people of how Senator JOHNSON and I have been attacked over the months of 2020 for some investigation we have been doing, and I want to speak to that now.

For over a year, Senator JOHNSON and I investigated the Biden financial family dealings. We found that they engaged in potential criminal financial deals across the globe, including China, which created counterintelligence concerns.

We showed our work, and we made our findings very public, but the liberal media and members of the other political party chose to dismiss our work. They even falsely claimed that our work was Russian disinformation. I think they did this in order to protect leaders of the other party. Those same liberal outlets that disparaged our investigation now report that Hunter Biden's financial deals in China raised counterintelligence concerns.

Yesterday, the Biden transition team confirmed that Hunter Biden is under criminal investigation for his taxes and financial dealings.

So you can understand why I think it is very outrageous that the Fourth Estate would choose to ignore facts when they are uncovered by Republicans.

Senator JOHNSON and I don't do oversight work just for the fun of it. Oversight work is serious business. It shouldn't take subpoenas and confirmation from Hunter Biden himself to get the rest of the press to pay attention.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, we learned a few minutes ago that new unemployment claims just hit their highest weekly total since mid-September. It is the largest 1-week jump since back in March, and the number of continuing claims—people struggling with joblessness on an ongoing basis—which had plateaued for months but at least not increased, just ticked back up as well.

Our economic recovery thus far has been faster than expected. Americans are tough and resilient, but our people need another dose of support as we hope to close out our battle with this virus. We should be doing everything we can to prevent layoffs, create jobs where possible, and race toward the vaccines that will end this nightmare.

While Democrats hold the Paycheck Protection Program hostage over controversial State government bailouts, family businesses are closing their doors. While Democrats resist the kinds of commonsense legal protections that we put in place during past emergencies, our reopening and recovery is threatened by, according to one estimate—now, listen to this: So far, 6,500 lawsuits have been filed and counting—6,500 lawsuits filed and counting.

Here is what one litigator told one reporter a couple of days ago. These lawsuits are ''pretty common these days. I have seen 10 like this over the last 30 days.''

The American Council on Education told Congress in May—in May—that colleges and universities need temporary but strong legal protections.

Now, our Democratic colleagues want to pretend they are bravely fighting big corporations, but they are really bullying small business owners and college presidents who have been pleading for these protections for months.

Our Democratic colleagues have not even let us pass noncontroversial money to invest in vaccine distribution—not unless the two parties settle a whole list of issues that are controversial the way that they want to settle.

So I hope our colleagues let Congress deliver more help soon. A lot of Americans simply cannot afford to wait.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORITIZATION ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, now, in the meantime, yesterday, we began moving the conference report on the National Defense Authorization Act toward the floor.

For the information of all Senators, we should expect the potential for a late night tonight and the possibility of votes tomorrow.

Back in July, the Senate passed our version of this crucial annual bill. Now our colleagues on the conference committee have done their tough job and reconciled two different approaches so we do not leave our military in the lurch.

On Tuesday, the House passed the conference report with overwhelming bipartisan support. Now it is the Senate's turn to make it an unbroken 60-year streak of passing this legislation to keep our military strong and our homeland safe.

This NDAA will unlock more than $740 billion for the training, tools, and cutting-edge equipment that our servicemembers and civilian employees need to defend American lives and American interests. It will give our troops the 3 percent pay raise they richly deserve. It will keep our forces ready to deter China and stand strong in the Indo-Pacific, and it will secure President Trump's major progress at modernizing our capabilities, our technologies, and our strategic nuclear deterrent.

This legislation will secure wins on priorities that all of us share. It does not contain every policy that either side would like to pass, but a huge number of crucial policies are included, and a lot of bad ideas were kept out. So I would encourage all our colleagues to vote to advance this must-pass bill.

TRIBUTE TO CORY GARDNER

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, now, on one final matter, it is my honor today to pay tribute to a truly exceptional U.S. Senator, someone who arrived in this body with a full head of steam and a determination to cram as much service as possible into every day he got to wake up and serve his neighbors who sent him here.

Our good friend, CORY GARDNER, the junior Senator from Colorado, has been a man on a mission from the day he arrived. He already knew the institution. He was already one of the highest energy high-achievers that anybody who knew him had ever met. So he got to work, and he spent 6 years delivering a dizzying list of accomplishments.

If you have heard about CORY GARDNER's early days, you know that his high-speed, can-do attitude is nothing new. Case in point, one evening, when CORY was a boy, he and his friends got tired of their hoop sessions ending at sundown because the public basketball court lacked sufficient lighting. The group of friends considered how to remedy this. CORY's dad happened to be a town councilman. So a little government relations took place right around the dinner table.

Well, no Senator who CORY ever pressed for a vote will be surprised to hear that the lighting infrastructure was soon adjusted, and the kids could take their pickup games into prime time.

So young CORY was no stranger to persistence or public service, but it was in high school that he scored an opportunity to taste a level beyond Yuma's local government. He won admission to the U.S. Senate Youth Program. It is a scholarship that brings promising students from around the country to these halls for a quick immersion experience.

Teenaged CORY GARDNER liked the looks of this place. He made a mental note. By the way, to this day, CORY, along with his fellow alumna, Senator COLLINS, continue to make sure that special experience is paid forward.

It didn't take CORY long to come back and begin strolling these hallways for real. After earning honors at Colorado State and a law degree from CU Boulder, he wound up working for our former colleague Senator Wayne Allard—and rising quickly through the ranks.

In short order, he developed a reputation as a highly effective advocate for Coloradans. In fact, he was so well liked, so effective, and so thoroughly the proud son of Yuma that folks started to wonder if it wasn't time for CORY to put his own name on a door somewhere. So it wasn't long before the men and women of Colorado's State House District 63 found out firsthand what happens when you hire CORY GARDNER to fight on your behalf. You get results big time.

Not much later, his neighbors then gave CORY a new assignment here in Congress. Again, Congressman GARDNER didn't just meet the bar as one out of 435. He excelled as a powerful, energetic voice on the most consequential issues. He brought home one win after another when it really mattered.

It didn't take long before another promotion came calling, and so, appropriately enough, the Senate's freshman class of 2014 included a new member from the land of ''14ers''—what Coloradans call their peaks higher than 14,000 feet. CORY was already accustomed to altitude.

So here in this upper Chamber, Senator GARDNER hit the ground sprinting. I believe he has authored 11 standalone bills that have been signed into law in just 6 years. Without CORY's tireless work and his travels to the four corners of Colorado and beyond, the biggest conservation bill in a generation—the Great American Outdoors Act—would not have become law.

There has been his key role in the Supreme Court confirmation of fellow Coloradan Neil Gorsuch, his mission to move the Bureau of Land Management to Grand Junction, and, of course, the nuts-and-bolts constituent work that CORY and his staff are famous for mastering.

This not-so-junior Senator has used Colorado values to improve Washington and Washington influence to advance his home State.

He dived head first into his leadership role on the East Asia Subcommittee on Foreign Relations. His work with regional allies helped drive the Senate to approve meaningful sanctions against North Korea, and the impact of the Asia Reassurance Initiative should echo long after all of us here today have left this scene.

The litany of CORY's work just simply does not end. There is the new, nationwide three-digit suicide prevention hotline. There is the fact that this freshman not only scrapped over a national defense issue with our late colleague Chairman John McCain—talk about fearlessness—but that he somehow emerged mostly unscathed and with a win on space launch vehicles to show for it.

But, like I said, one of the best aspects of CORY's operation is his almost obsessive focus on looking out for his people—one family and one story at a time.

That is why it is impossible to give a speech on Senator GARDNER without working your way to another name, Don Stratton.

When Don was first met with our colleague, the 95-year-old Navy veteran was living with his wife in Colorado Springs. But the story began 76 years earlier, when he was among the fortunate few sailors to survive the bombing of the USS *Arizona* at Pearl Harbor.

At 19, Don had survived severe burns but insisted on returning to combat with the fleet. After the war, he raised a family and wrote a book about his experiences. But Don's request to Senator GARDNER wasn't anything for himself. It concerned a comrade who had saved his life that day 79 years ago this very week.

At risk to himself, a sailor named Joe George had literally thrown the lifeline that brought Don and five shipmates to safety. But Joe's lifesaving efforts had gone unrecognized before his death.

For years, Don didn't even know who had saved him. So once he found out, Don Stratton made it his mission to ensure our Nation formalized our gratitude for his guardian angel.

Let's just say that the Strattons picked the right State to retire in. Colorado's junior Senator was on the case. CORY and his staff waded through tangles of bureaucracy. They appealed decisions all the way to the Secretary of Defense. And you better believe they secured that Bronze Star for PO1 Joe George, with the ''V'' device for valor to boot.

Don passed away earlier this year. By all accounts, he and his family had come to regard Senator GARDNER not just as an incredible advocate but as a true friend.

Now, in fairness, this same eagerness and almost maniacal problem-solving

can also get CORY in the occasional pickle. I remember recently that just months after the Senator was sworn in, he and I were on a codel together in the Middle East. I think the itinerary was something like eight countries in 6 days.

At one point, we were waiting to meet with a foreign leader. As everyone else was just waiting patiently in this grand palace, CORY spots what looks like a stray piece of paper lying on the floor. Earnestly thinking he should leave the place better than he found it, CORY bends over and picks up the trash—except, it wasn't trash. Just then, the Monarch rolls in with a color guard—a color guard that is looking anxiously for the floor marker that was supposed to indicate where to stop marching. Luckily, the only diplomatic fallout was a good laugh by all.

Actually, good laughs tend to follow CORY in his wake. Our colleague finds humor in the ''everyday'' like few can and shares it freely.

I understand one of his favorite stories concerns a chat in the well with yours truly and former Senator Orrin Hatch. CORY was filling me in on his efforts to legalize marijuana in States like his. Orrin comes by, and sensing an ally, I pulled him in. I said:

Orrin, is this true? What the heck is going on out West?

Without missing a beat, our friend from Utah, a member of the LDS Church, shook his head sadly and said: ''First, it was tea. Then, coffee. And now this!''

CORY's version of this story comes complete with his finest Hatch and McConnell impersonations. Believe me, he has the voices down pat.

For 6 years, Coloradans have been represented by this remarkable person who lives and works with relentless focus and infectious joy: globe-trotting diplomacy, a thick stack of signature bills signed into law, and generational accomplishments that were only possible because he was here.

CORY likes to say himself: ''Not bad for a boy from Yuma, CO!'' We know what he means, but I have to observe that CORY's roots and his accomplishments are not in conflict—quite the contrary. It is only because CORY GARDNER is exactly who he is that he is able to do what he does.

CORY, everyone knows darn well your transition is no ''retirement.'' This is a brief pause between great chapters. I bet Jaime will call it a victory if she, Alyson, Thatcher, and Caitlyn can just get you to sit still—just sit still—and stay home through the holidays.

But we all know it will take about 5 minutes before you have found a dozen new ways to keep doing big things, winning victories on behalf of others, and paying forward the ways in which you have been blessed. Colorado and your country aren't finished with you yet, not by a long shot. So thank you for everything. We will miss you badly around here, but we can't wait to see what course you chart next.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021—Conference Report—Resumed

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 6395, which will be stated by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The committee of conference on disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 6395), to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2021 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes, having met, have agreed that the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate and agree to the same with an amendment and the Senate agree to the same, signed by a majority of the conferees on the part of both Houses.

(The conference report is printed in the House proceedings of the RECORD of December 3, 2020.)

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, with each passing day, we get another round of news underscoring how costly this pandemic has been. Yesterday, over 3,000 Americans—3,000—died from COVID–19, the highest single-day death toll to date.

If you were making a list of some of the deadliest days in American history, your mind would jump to Gettysburg, Antietam, Pearl Harbor, or 9/11. You can now add to that somber list last Thursday, Wednesday, last Tuesday, last Friday, and yesterday. Each day, nearly 2,500 Americans or more lost their lives to COVID in the course of a single day.

Now time is running out for Congress to finish our most pressing priority: passing an emergency COVID relief bill to help American families in need.

Right now, there is one clear path to getting an outcome: a bipartisan group of Senators and House Members who have reached an initial agreement on another emergency relief bill. In the spirit of compromise and for the sake of getting something done for the American people, Speaker PELOSI and I have endorsed those efforts as a framework for a final bill.

Everyone knows that this bipartisan proposal is the only real game in town at the moment, the only proposal with enough bipartisan support to, hopefully, pass both Houses of Congress before the end of the year. Everyone knows that, it seems, except Leader MCCONNELL, who continues to stand in the way of bipartisan progress and who seems to wake up each morning with a new round of outlandish reasons why Democrats are somehow to blame for all the world's ills.

As the bipartisan group of Senators continue to work toward a final agreement, I want to address an incredibly false equivalency that has been drawn between two provisions: providing aid to State and local services—essential State and local services—and granting sweeping immunity to corporations that put their workers in harm's way during the pandemic.

You will hear voices say: Democrats want to fund State and local services while Republicans—that is, Leader MCCONNELL—want a corporate liability shield. Each side wants something that the other side doesn't want to accept. But as I said, this is a false equivalency, incredibly false, for two reasons.

First, State and local aid has broad bipartisan support, totally unlike the Republican leader's liability provision, which is expressly partisan. Let me say that again because it is important. There is strong bipartisan support for State and local aid. There is not the same broad bipartisan support for sweeping corporate immunity.

Second, the two policies are not remotely equivalent in terms of importance or relevance to what is going on in our country right now. When we talk about providing Federal aid so the States don't have to cut essential services, we are talking about saving lives, and we are talking about saving jobs. We are talking about boosting the economy. According to the Congressional Budget Office, money for State and local government creates the best bang for the buck for the economy from any spending Congress is considering.

State and local aid is a policy with a nationwide reach. It would solve a real, immediate problem. On the other hand, when Republicans talk about giving corporate indemnity, they are talking about a solution in search of a problem. To date, there have been 20—only 20-some-odd personal injury lawsuits filed in the entire country.

The bottom line is, one provision solves a real problem in our country; the other does not. The two sides are not remotely equivalent, and it is not a trade that makes any sense in terms of the well-being of the American people.

Now, I know the Republican leader and Senate Republicans want to help small businesses and re-up the popular PPP to help prevent businesses from folding and American workers from being laid off. So do I. So do Democrats. Well, guess what. State and local relief is also about American workers

getting laid off too. If you want PPP so small businesses don't lay off people, why wouldn't you want State and local aid so governments don't lay off people? They are the same people who need to feed their families, pay their rent, pay their mortgage, and get on with life.

State and local relief is about American workers getting laid off. It is about firefighters getting laid off. It is about first responders getting laid off. It is about teachers getting laid off, busdrivers, sanitation workers, essential employees—men and women who have been working since the pandemic began and risking their lives to keep our country moving. It is impossible to imagine any community in this country functioning without them.

And this morning we learned that an additional 1.4 million Americans filed new unemployment claims—a huge spike from the previous week. If you want to save jobs, if you want to make sure those numbers don't go up, we need PPP for small businesses, and we need State and local aid for our governments because both aid those entities and prevent people from being laid off and unemployment from going up.

The liability provisions of the leader have nothing to do with that and in fact only affect a very small number of lawsuits.

So if we are going to be here on the floor and talking about saving jobs, we have to talk about saving the jobs of essential public employees. They deserve our help too. They are no different than anyone else, whether they are in a red State or a blue State.

Make no mistake, right now there is one person—just one person—standing in the way, and that is Leader MCCONNELL.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Madam President, now on another matter, despite the fact that the Presidential election ended well over a month ago and that, by now, every single State in the country and the District of Columbia has certified results, there are still many on the political right who refuse to accept reality.

Today, amazingly enough, 17 Republican attorneys general will meet with President Trump to discuss their desperate and wildly irresponsible lawsuit, which aims to literally overturn the will of the people on the grounds they didn't like the results.

This has gone beyond ridiculous. No court in this country has found any of President Trump's claims of widespread voter fraud credible. No serious State election official, Democrat or Republican, has found them credible. Even the Trump administration's Justice Department, so browbeaten into political activities over the past 4 years, has not found a scrap of evidence that would affect the final result.

Yet, rather than accept the simple truth that Joe Biden will be the next President of the United States, there are actually sitting Senators and Congress Members who prefer to undermine our democracy by indulging President Trump's wild conspiracy theories about a stolen election.

Here in the Senate, the chairman of the Homeland Security Committee announced yesterday that next week he will convene a hearing on ''election irregularities.'' When is this nonsense, detrimental to our democracy, going to end? When?

It is already deeply irresponsible for my Republican colleagues, many of them, to stay silent about President Trump's deliberate attempts to poison Americans' faith in our elections. It is deeply irresponsible that there hasn't been a full-throated defense of the validity of our elections by Republican Senators and the Republican leader, who still refuse to call Joe Biden ''President-Elect.'' But to go one step further and use a Senate committee as a platform to spread misinformation about our own elections is beyond the pale.

So, in conclusion, Chairman JOHNSON should call off this ridiculous charade of a Senate hearing immediately. If he won't, Leader MCCONNELL should intervene to ensure that the committee does not indulge such quackery and conspiracy theories, and he should acknowledge the results of the election and make clear it is time to move on, just as he was happy to do so when the shoe was on the other foot. Doing otherwise would add fuel to the fire that is undermining faith in our wonderful democracy.

TRIBUTE TO PAT ROBERTS

Madam President, finally, just a note: I, too, want to bid a fond, fond farewell to the Senator from Kansas, a wonderful guy and a great guy.

I learned how good he was when we met on the basketball courts in the House. He set the best picks of anybody. He would quietly sneak up on you, you would be dribbling or moving, and boom. He knows.

But as good as he was at picks, he was very fine at legislating, and he is just a fine human being whom I think just about every Member on this side of the aisle will very much miss.

So, PATTY, we wish you and your family the very, very best.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The distinguished Senator from Kansas.

FAREWELL TO THE SENATE

Mr. ROBERTS. Madam President, my colleagues, first, I thank the leadership on both sides for this opportunity to give a PAT ROBERTS ''adios, amigos'' speech.

The story of how I got into politics is a pretty straight family path. As a fourth-generation Kansan, my great-grandfathers on both sides of the Roberts-Patrick family were pioneer newspaper editors who came to Kansas as crusading abolitionists. To say I bleed fourth-generation printer's ink would be very close to the truth.

However, the main influence that drew me to public service was my dad, Wes Roberts, who was a newspaper man. And soon journalism led to politics. He served as chief of staff and adviser for several Kansas Governors, becoming then the State Republican chairman.

In 1952, my dad was asked to head up the Citizens for Ike campaign, which was a genuine army of volunteers made up of legions of veterans, women's groups, and mostly Republicans who wanted a candidate who could win. Plus, they really liked Ike.

At 16, in my dad's tow, I was the sergeant at arms at the 1952 convention, back when conventions actually chose the nominee for President. I vividly remember two lasting experiences: The renowned Senator from Illinois, Everett Dirksen, was a key leader in the Bob Taft campaign. Senator Dirksen, known for his long, eloquent speeches, was in the midst of his convention remarks when the entire New York delegation, led by former Governor and Presidential candidate Tom Dewey, marched in, and with considerable noise they took their seats.

Dirksen paused and, pointing directly at Dewey and with his booming voice, said this: You, sir, have led this party—this Republican Party—down to defeat in 1944 and again in 1948. Don't do it again.

Whereupon, the entire New York delegation stood up and gave Dirksen the raspberry, and I thought: This is what adults do at a convention?

(Laughter.)

One morning I was in a meeting with my dad with the top Ike campaign brass—Dewey, Lodge, Brownell, and other GOP movers and shakers. He told me to sit and be quiet. He was in the midst of suggesting the ''fair play'' amendment, given that the new Ike delegates from the solid South had surprised the old guard and won delegate seats at the State convention, only to be replaced by the old guard at later surprise conventions. Unlike MacArthur, old guards never die or fade away.

My dad said there was no downside if they lost, and he believed they could win a majority of delegates. The ''fair play'' amendment passed, and Ike won on the first ballot. I thought to myself: Wow. My dad actually helped Ike win.

I met the general. I shook his hand—and then again at the 1953 inaugural ceremonies when my dad became the Republican national chairman.

It was these reflections, told to my great friend and Medal of Honor recipient Senator Danny Inouye, that prompted him to say: PAT, I fought for Ike. You met him. It is up to you to get this memorial done.

And after a 21-year effort, we did just that, with help from Bob Dole, Jim Baker, Susan Eisenhower, the Eisenhower family, and Senator LISA MURKOWSKI, who kept the Ike commission going through these tough years. Finally, we now have an appropriate, if not stunning, memorial to the Kansan who saved Western democracy and World War II and led America onto the world stage.

With the final dedication of the Dwight David Eisenhower Memorial at the end of my Senate career, it is a full family-circle accomplishment. If my dad helped elect Ike, then the least I could do was to lead the effort to make the memorial on the Mall to a great general and President a reality.

In a homecoming address, Eisenhower famously said: ''The proudest thing I can claim is that I am from Abilene.'' He was a small-town Kansas boy who saved Western democracy and led the Nation for 8 years with peace and prosperity.

Well, I too come from a small town in Kansas. So how did this boy from Holton, KS, become the longest serving Member of Congress in Kansas history? Like father, like son. I graduated from K-State with a degree in journalism. My father joined the Marines in World War II and saw action in both Okinawa and Iwo Jima. I joined in peacetime and served in Okinawa and was part of the first Marine contingent to return to Iwo Jima on the 15th anniversary of that battle.

So from Marine captain to newspaper editor and news director of a radio station in Arizona, I dropped everything and drove to Washington when Senator Frank Carlson asked me to come and work for him. Within weeks of leaving Phoenix, I was the chief of staff for Senator Frank Carlson, a venerable and highly respected Senator who made his mark on Kansas history as the only person to serve our State as Congressman, Governor, Senator, UN delegate, and the founder of the National Prayer Breakfast.

Life changed dramatically at that time. I always thought a bachelor was a man who did not make the same mistake once.

(Laughter.)

Then into my life came a tall, blonde, blue-eyed magnolia blossom from South Carolina. Franki and I have been married for 51 years and have been blessed with three children and eight grandchildren. I am who I am because Franki is my wife and we are parents to David, Ashleigh, Ann Wesley; Papa PAT to Lorena, Patrick, Sayaka, Lilly, Charlie—Charlie bear—Miles, Oliver, and Graham.

My family is my crowning—my crowning—achievement.

Senator Frank was a great mentor. He always said: There are no self-made men or women in public office; it is your friends and family who make you what you are.

He taught me a great lesson: Your true friends stand behind you when you are taking the bows and beside you when there are any boos.

Following the 2-year stint with the Senator, I was privileged to work 12 years for the newly elected Congressman from the big First District of Kansas as his chief of staff.

Keith Sebelius was a wonderful man, a leader on the House Agriculture Committee and the Interior Committee, especially with regard to improvements and restoration of our national parks. Upon Keith's retirement, a group of party stalwarts encouraged me to run. I thought about it, talked to Franki. Franki simply said: Well, this is what you always wanted to do. Let's do it.

So for 9 months, with no paycheck or health insurance and limited savings, with three young children, Dodge City became our home. Most sane candidates would not attempt to go door-to-door in a district larger than most States; however, with a lot of help, we won a tough primary and a not-so-tough general election—the first of 24 straight victories.

I was ranking to Chairman Kika de la Garza when the 1994 revolution put Republicans in the majority after being in the wilderness for over 40 years. Suddenly I was chairman.

In 1996, we achieved a major farm policy reform, changing 40 years of farm bill policy. To this day, farmers still have the freedom to farm what they want.

I have had the honor and privilege of representing Kansas for 16 years in the House and now 24 in the Senate. The PAT ROBERTS of 1980 was fighting for Kansas values and for the issues that affected the daily lives and pocketbooks of all Kansans.

As the PAT ROBERTS of 1996, I promised that if elected to the Senate, when Kansas spoke, Washington would listen.

I have held six gavels in the House and Senate, and that in and of itself might be a record, but it is what happened during my tenures as chairman that I believe I have had the most lasting effects. It is not just having the gavel; it is what you do with it.

Taking part and leading eight farm bills in the House and the Senate, I have touched and improved many lives, and I have always been mindful of what farm families do for our Nation and a troubled and hungry world as we crafted each bill.

I was fortunate that my first committee assignments were to serve on the Armed Services Committee as well as Agriculture. Strom Thurmond was the very senior chairman who, as the country song goes, never even called me by my name. I was recognized as ''the Senator who had the good sense to marry a fine, beautiful, South Carolina girl.''

(Laughter.)

My role on the Armed Services Committee was simple. It was to collect the small change left by the Air Force to enable the Marine Corps to continue to be our Nation's force in readiness, not to mention the new Warfighting Lab.

I also had the privilege of being the Senate Intelligence Committee chairman for 4 years during the Iraq war and led the committee's investigation that exposed a worldwide intelligence failure—and it resulted in a blueprint of the 9/11 Commission and a better intelligence community that did keep our country safe.

As chairman of the brandnew Emerging Threat Subcommittee within the Armed Services Committee, I traveled to cities within what remained of the former Soviet Union. In one of the Soviet Union secret cities, we discovered a lab that had developed strains of pathogens that could do irreparable harm to our Nation's food supply. Talk about an evil empire. I caution my colleagues: That threat still exists, even as we endeavor to continue the worldwide fight against COVID–19.

It has taken over 20 years to respond to this threat with a biological containment and research lab, and we are still not done. I have put a lifetime of work into NBADF, the National Bio and Agriculture Defense Facility—Paws from Manhattan, KS—home of Kansas State University with the ever optimistic Wildcats, Manhattan, KS. It will soon serve as the first line of defense to protect American agriculture and the world's food supply.

I have also been privileged to serve on the HELP Committee. Thank you to LAMAR ALEXANDER and to PATTY MURRAY for supporting my amendments, especially with regard to rural healthcare.

And, finally, I have chaired the Senate Ethics Committee for 24 years. I have tried to resign twice. I don't know what I have done wrong, but I have been a member of that committee for what I am sure is a record 24 years. I think they just want somebody there to say: Wait a minute. Fifteen years ago, we tried that, and it didn't work. Maybe we ought to start over.

As I move out of my office—formerly a veritable museum of pictures, awards, and stuff that we all collect—all that remains are the barren beige walls, full of memories and stories—all of which, of course, are classified. However, I still have my Marine Corps bumper sticker: ''To err is human, to forgive is divine.'' Neither is Marine Corps policy. Marines never give up. We take the hill. The discipline and focus I learned in the Marine Corps never failed me in my toughest battles here in the Senate. Semper fi. Semper fi, Dan. And still in the office, of course, is a framed statement with the advice of LBJ, Lyndon Baines Johnson: ''Sometimes you just have to hunker down like a jackass in a hailstorm and just take it.''

On that note, if you want to avoid a hailstorm, get a good staff. You are only as good as your staff—and I have the best staff in Washington. I know everybody thinks that, but I really do because they always—they always took the hill.

My chiefs of staff, Leroy Towns, Jackie Cottrell, and Chad Tennpenny; my DC deputy chief of staff, Amber Kirchhoefer; and my Ag Committee staff directors, Mike Seyfert, Joel Leftwich, and James Glueck—they led the posse. And they always checked to make sure that the herd was still there and we didn't ride into any boxed canyons.

To the staff currently in this Chamber with me, and those watching on C–

SPAN, thank you. It has been an absolute privilege and an honor to have you call me boss. Always remember you are a family. I couldn't have asked for a more loyal and dedicated or talented staff.

To be a Member of this U.S. Senate is a true privilege—a working family. It is the greatest deliberative body in the world. But today as compared to when I first came to the Senate, it is the deliberative part that gives me great concern. I regret the loss of comity—the ability to work together or just to get along. Sadly, gridlock appears to be the new normal. However, it doesn't have to be this way.

I am very proud, I have had the privilege of being chairman of a committee that does get along, and we do get things done—the Senate Agriculture Committee. And it is really not that hard. First, we represent the best of our Nation—farmers, ranchers, growers, and the entire food value chain. We know that we have a collective job to do on their behalf—and we do just that. Second, we convene in a small hearing room—in pre-COVID times—right across the table from each other. Third, for the most part, we actually know one another.

I used to be the ranking Republican when Senator STABENOW was the chairperson. We worked together on the 2014 farm bill. In 2018, this wasn't our first rodeo. We knew, regardless of what each of us wanted, passing a farm bill was paramount. We had an agreement—no surprises, no press the other one did not know about. And we held hearings together, all over the country. I went to the campus of Michigan State and wore green and white; DEBORAH came to Kansas State and wore purple. We not only agreed to work together, we gave staff marching orders to do the same. We also became friends. I protected her and she protected me in conference. And we got 87 votes, setting a record for a farm bill—standing right there now where our leader is now sitting. I was trying for 90. He said: What do you want? I said: I want justice. He said: No, you want blood.

Now, ordinarily, we do not vote alike—Senator STABENOW and myself—but we remain friends. And that is the way it should be. Friendship and comity is the norm for the Ag Committee. It could be for the whole Senate. Though, things in this great country are rocky, I have a news flash: These really are not the worst of times.

When I first came to Washington in early 1967, our Nation experienced the tragedy of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King. Within hours, Washington was on fire, marines on the Capitol steps with sandbags, automatic weapons with live ammunition. Advised to leave the beltway, I mistakenly thought I could get to my parents' apartment house. This was BF, before Franki. I wanted to take the Rock Creek Parkway. No traffic was moving, tear gas in the air, random gunshots. I decided to jump the curb and drive on the sidewalks and eventually on the Mall itself. I was in a little Volkswagen. The police told me the parkway was closed. When they focused on the next drivers, I jumped the curb, and I took off on the parkway.

As bad as that period of time was, it was not as bad as the military march on thousands of World War I veterans demonstrating on the Mall and setting up camp in the mid-1930s and demanding bonuses. President Hoover ordered them removed by the military—led by none other than Douglas MacArthur, complete with a tank, horse cavalry—with swords—and armed troops. The ''bonus'' vets were quickly dispersed and rounded up.

Fast forward, the 1968 Chicago riots, Kent State and the horrible shooting of students by untrained guardsmen.

Senator Bobby Kennedy, running for President, only suffered the same fate as his brother.

And then came Watergate. Those days were tough. It was almost impossible not to face the bitter splits over our political parties and even families.

Today, we are in the midst of a worldwide pandemic, and even that has fallen into politics. But it doesn't have to be. At home, Kansas has been dealt its fair share of hardships, but in Kansas—as JERRY MORAN knows—we don't let disasters define us. We grab our bootstraps and get to work. That is our normal. JERRY will remember multiple prairie fires that have ravaged Kansas farms and ranches: the Anderson Creek fire in 2016, the Starbuck fire in 2017. Folks, these flames were 60 feet high and moving 60 miles an hour. Those folks have learned to adapt and build back with the help of USDA disaster programs.

Then we had the tale of Treece, KS—once a boom town, turned toxic waste dump. It was an extremely unsafe and unhealthy place for folks to live. We worked with the Obama administration and its EPA. I mean, really. No less, we relocated them to safer places, literally, and greener pastures because working across party lines is what we do in Kansas.

Let's not forget about the EF tornado in 2007 that completely destroyed, wiped out the community of Greensburg, KS. I immediately called President Bush. He was up at Camp David. I called from a McDonald's in the next town and asked for help. When I hung up, there were 25 people gathered around me listening.

One old-timer, in his bib overalls, said to me: PAT, was that the President of the United States?

I said: You bet.

He turned to his wife and said: Mother, I told you. I told you PAT was a talking to the President, and we would get help.

And FEMA was there the next day.

In a FEMA-issued tent, I talked to the graduating senior class, whose school and homes were but a pile of debris, and told them: You are the class of hope and destiny. The following year, President George W. Bush spoke at graduation in Greensburg. The size of that audience matched the size of hope that Kansans had for their future and the rebuilding of their lives.

I am reminded of the optimism of those speeches and the optimism that I have for our country. We endured these hardships. We came out on the other side. We did it by changing the old normal and creating a new normal.

Here in the Senate, only we can decide what our new normal is, and we ought to get to know one another. We don't know one another. We don't have to let the apparent gravitational pull of more and more politics and pursuit of power to change what our Founders gave us—the creation of a nation, of liberty and freedom, the envy of the world, and to literally move the U.S. Senate from the moorings of its historic and great past to simply be a rubberstamp for radical change.

The beauty is that we can decide what our normal is. We don't have to let circumstances dictate our future. Let us, once again, become a body of respect, humility, cooperation, achievement, and, yes, friendship. That can and should be our new normal. The entire country could use a little bit of what we say in Kansas: ad astra per aspera; to the stars through difficulty.

So as my time in the Senate draws to a close, I have done my best to improve the lives of Kansans and all Americans, for decades, to accomplish big and small things so that this generation and future generations might live and achieve the American dream.

To Kansas, I say a humble thank you. Thank you for the privilege of representing you in this great body.

To my colleagues, thank you for fighting on behalf of our great Nation and alongside me to preserve this Chamber. It has been such a privilege. As I ride off into the sunset to create a new normal for Franki and me, I will be cheering for the Senate to rebuild the bridges of comity that will create a new normal.

My colleagues, my time is up. Thank you for yours.

I yield the floor.

(Applause.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCOTT of Florida). The Senator from Kansas.

TRIBUTE TO PAT ROBERTS

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, thank you.

Senator ROBERTS, thank you for your comments.

I am nervous today, and more nervous now that I have heard you speak, because I am concerned that this may be for the first time in our lives that I have ever spoken longer than you. That makes me nervous.

''I do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same.''

These are words spoken by PAT ROBERTS more than once, but on September 15, 1958, age 22, PAT ROBERTS

joined the Marine Corps, and he has lived by his oath, by his promise to do exactly that every day thereafter and in every job he pursued here in the Congress of the United States, in the House and the Senate.

He indicated he served as the chief of staff for Senator Frank Carlson, one of those Kansans who served the U.S. Senate and is so highly regarded even today. He served as the chief of staff for Congressman Keith Sebelius.

I met PAT ROBERTS 50 years ago, in 1969. A few years later, in 1974, I became an intern in the office of Congressman Sebelius. PAT has been my boss for 45 years.

When I describe PAT, I tell people our most common conversation is never spoken. It is symbols. PAT does this: Come here; sit down. Every time I tell PAT this, he, in his Jack Benny voice, will say: ''Now cut that out.'' But for 45 years: Come here; sit down.

And PAT, while you discount that and I highlight it, it has been some of the most enjoyable time in my life, where I have had the opportunity to be your friend and to listen to what you had to say. I suppose if I thought long and hard, I might find something that wasn't good advice, but I can't remember it. So everything in those circumstances was something that I continue to value today. I learned something in every conversation.

Knowing PAT for 50 years, I told him that he just keeps me around and he puts up with me because I have at least heard of the people he knows.

He does know people. PAT and I both grew up in times of politics in which your relationship with voters, your relationship with constituents, your relationship with Kansans was paramount. PAT knew the school superintendent in every community. PAT knew the executive of the chamber of commerce and the newspaper editor. He knew the president of the county Farm Bureau.

I don't know how many times I heard PAT say: I am going home to talk to the coffee klatch in Dodge City or I am going to sit on the wagon tongue and I am going to hear from Kansans what they have to tell us.

Politics, as you heard from Senator ROBERTS, is in his blood and in his family—Wes Roberts, the chairman of the Republican National Committee; Frankie Roberts, the staff person for Strom Thurmond. It is in his blood and in his family. It is not just politics, but public service.

In 1980, PAT ROBERTS decided to be an office holder, not an office staffer. The first letter I ever wrote to an editor of a Kansas paper was to my hometown, where his primary opponent lived. I supported PAT ROBERTS in a letter to the editor when his opponent was somebody who was highly regarded and a friend of mine. But PAT ROBERTS' friendship and his commitment—who he is as a human being and his sworn oath—told me that PAT ROBERTS was the person I wanted to be my Congressman. The constituent in me said: This is the guy I want serving me and my fellow Kansans.

He won that election in January of 1981 and became a House Member representing the First Congressional District of Kansas, known in our State as ''The Big First.'' The geography of that district today—and almost true when PAT was the Congressman—is the size of the State of Illinois. The largest city is Salina, which then had a population of about 35,000. It is a rural place, and it fit the PAT ROBERTS' mode of representation, which was, I know them and they know me.

He was elected with a significant majority of voters. He won seven times to be reelected to the House of Representatives. He never received less than 60 percent of the vote, and in his last election to the House of Representatives, he received nearly 78 percent of Kansans' approval. Sitting on those wagon tongues and listening in on those coffee klatches had its consequence.

It is the kind of politics that PAT described that I hope we return to, in which it is all about taking care of Kansans, taking care of Americans, setting aside our differences and finding common ground, just as Kansans—particularly, rural Kansans—have to do in their community.

On January 3, 1997, PAT was sworn in as a Member of this body. I asked Robin, my wife, what it is I might say today. She said she remembers in about early 1996—maybe late 1995—she answered the phone, and it was PAT ROBERTS. What he said was, Tell JERRY to put his running shoes on.

PAT ROBERTS gave me the advantage of knowing his plans well in advance of the public or potential opponents, and set the stage in my life as somebody whom you would look at and think there is no chance of ever being a U.S. Senator, but PAT ROBERTS found value in me and gave me the opportunity to serve where I serve today. I never thought I would catch up with Pat in the House of Representatives. I never thought I would catch up with PAT ROBERTS in the U.S. Senate, but because he and his friends took an interest in me and because this is America, that became possible.

PAT is only the 34th Kansan to serve a term in the U.S. Senate. I like that number. PAT will recognize that 34 is special to Kansans. We are the 34th State admitted to the Union, and he is the 34th Senator to serve a term from Kansas in this body.

PAT ROBERTS told me to put my running shoes on, gave me a chance, and we have had those running shoes on for a long time thereafter.

PAT is that fourth generation Kansan who knows us. I would say one of his greatest contributions to our State, to the Midwest, and to the country has been his distinguished career in leadership in agriculture. The farm bills that he mentioned, the work with Democrats and Republicans coming together, fighting for competitive and fair markets for our producers, the support for crop insurance—there is no question that Kansas and American farmers, ranchers, and producers had a strong voice in Congress as a result of PAT ROBERTS being here.

He is distinguished by being the first Member of Congress to chair both the House and Senate Agriculture Committees. In the next Congress, we will begin the process of writing another farm bill, and it will be the first farm bill since the Agriculture and Food Act of 1981 that will be written without PAT ROBERTS' direct influence.

However, Senator ROBERTS' legacy and impact on farm policy will be felt for generations to come as a result of his work in the 1996 Freedom to Farm Act, the 2000 Agriculture Risk Protection Act that modernized crop insurance, and many, many other pieces of consequential legislation.

In his early years in the Senate, as Senator ROBERTS indicated, he led the Intelligence Committee. This was during the 9/11 attacks. Under his leadership, the committee conducted a sweeping and exhausting review of U.S. intelligence, which led to critical reforms to put us in a better position to know more and protect Americans better. That work in intelligence reform earned him a spot in a very distinguished guest speaker program, the prestigious Landon Lecture Series of Kansas State University.

Combining his experience in agriculture, intelligence, and in defense, Senator ROBERTS has laid the groundwork for the National Bio and Agro-defense Facility at his alma mater in Manhattan, KS. It brings great opportunity to our State, and we are so pleased to have PAT's accomplishments benefit the country and our State for generations to come.

PAT ROBERTS deserves great credit for the Eisenhower Memorial. I have been around this issue for a long time. It has been challenging from the getgo. Nothing was easy, and controversy apparently follows every new memorial on the National Mall. I have no doubt that in the absence of PAT's leadership, his bringing people together and perhaps, yes, his sense of humor, Kansans' President Eisenhower would never be seen honored and respected at the memorial we now have.

He, Senator ROBERTS, advocates for policies he believes in. He compromises when necessary, and he always has a way of bringing everyone together, often with a joke ready to ease the tensions when things get stressful.

I always used to tell him: I saw that, once again, you became the funniest Member of Congress. You got an award.

He always would correct me: No, I am not the funniest Member; I am the most humorous Member.

Many times he has been designated the most humorous Member of Congress.

Some of the most important work he has done for Kansans won't be memorialized in laws passed or signed into law here in Washington, DC, but in the

meaningful change he made back home among the people whom he and I care for and love. How about the rural hospitals he fought for to keep their doors open or the family farms that are still operating because of decisions and efforts he made? He has consistently, continuously fought to get farmers and ranchers, to get rural communities, to get the people of Kansas the right resources at the right time.

I have had the challenge of following in politics in my life, in both the House and the Senate, those humorous people—PAT ROBERTS being one. The greatest challenge, probably for both of us, is Bob Dole. How can you ever follow Bob Dole in any way and how can you compete with his sense of humor and, particularly, his wit? So I asked Senator Dole what it is I might say on this floor to honor PAT ROBERTS. As usual, he took my responsibilities away from me and said: Here, just read this.

So these are the words of Bob Dole:

One of my first memories of Pat was when he worked for the late great Sen. Pat Carlson. Of course that was well over 50 years ago, when Pat was just a young child and I was . . . well . . . maybe just a teenager. Pat has the best sense of humor of anyone in Congress—I'm not sure how he acquired it, but I know it serves him well today. Pat—I honestly don't know what it is like to be retired, but people tell me it's great. Be forewarned, though, the rest of the world doesn't operate exactly like the Senate . . .

If anything goes wrong or breaks at home, your trusted Chief of Staff isn't on speed dial to put out the fires. Plus, there's nobody to dial your calls for you anyway.

Put your alarm clock up for sale on eBay—(1) somebody out there might want to buy a beat-up clock once owned by a famous Senator and (2) you won't need to wake up early ever again in your life . . . unless you just want to go sit in the D.C. traffic for old time's sake.

You'll have to brew your own coffee . . . so buy one of those space-age looking contraptions or make friends with your local barista.

You'll have to share elevators with the rest of the world now, so just stop looking for that ''Senators Only'' sign.

Your grandkids are now your information technology department, so reward them accordingly if you want your computer to be up and running. Or just ask Alexa.

But in all seriousness, Pat, you've earned some time off for a job well done in Congress over these past 40 years. Kansas has certainly benefited from your steadfast leadership. You care about the Sunflower State, and you care about our nation—and that's always been what matters most. Your strength of character, plain-spoken optimism, and determination to make a positive difference in people's lives—that's what people will remember about your legacy of public service here. You're a great American and a dear friend, and Elizabeth and I wish you nothing but the best for you and Franki from here on out. One important point of clarification, though—the filibuster simply doesn't work at home.

God Bless America,

BOB DOLE.

I know that all of us and Kansans have great regard for Senator Dole. I also know that Kansans and all of us have great regard for PAT ROBERTS. My guess, in knowing PAT, is that his role model—the person he may admire the most—is that Kansan Dwight Eisenhower. In the book ''How Ike Led,'' which PAT gave us all a copy of, I read that Ike led with a sense of humor as part of the art of leadership of getting along with people and getting things done. He also said the supreme quality for leadership was, unquestionably, integrity. Without it, no real success was possible no matter whether it was on a section gang, a football field, in the Army, or in an office.

PAT ROBERTS, I have no doubt that you have lived up to that role model—that Kansan who is esteemed around the world—and you have led like Ike led. I thank you and your staff for all that you have done for Kansas and for America. I thank you for what you have done for me and our team. Your mom and your dad—your dad, you say, got you started in this politics world. I knew your mom; I never met your dad. They would be so proud of you for the service that you are completing this term.

To Franki, David, Ashleigh, and Anne-Wesley, thank you for your support and engagement. It is not PAT ROBERTS—it is the family—and you have all been engaged in his politics and his public service day in and day out.

Robba and I wish you and Franki absolutely the best.

I told a Kansas farmer what I was doing but didn't ask him for any advice as to what to say. His last comment—he is a rancher from Elkhart—was, ''As a Kansan, I would want to know that my Senator fought for my values in DC and that the Senator did everything he could to ensure our part of the world was a priority to the Nation.''

To the rancher in Elkhart, PAT ROBERTS is exactly that—a Kansan who fought for our values at home while in Washington and did everything he could do to ensure that our part of the world was not forgotten in this part of the world.

So, PAT, I guess you said thank you to Kansans, and you said thank you to this Senate. I think it is time for me to say in return, on behalf of all Kansans, thank you for your service to our Nation and to our State. For a life being well lived, you are the example. Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to someone who has been more than a colleague, who has been more than just a friend. In fact, he has been a true partner in this Senate, and that has paid huge dividends for farmers and families and communities across our country.

Senator PAT ROBERTS has been here in the Senate for a long time. Some might even call him an institution. In fact, at a recent Ag Committee event, I joked that, as a young man, he advised George Washington on farm policy. That might be a bit of an exaggeration, but his legacy can hardly be overstated. He has left a lasting imprint on farm and food policy in this country. As has been said, he is the only person to have written a farm bill as both the chairs of the House and Senate Agriculture Committees.

Those of us who have had the honor of working alongside PAT on the Senate Agriculture Committee know there is no other place like it. It is a place where we leave politics at the door and focus on ways we can improve people's lives and livelihoods in rural America. We do that because we know agriculture isn't a red issue or a blue issue. Agriculture and food policy affect all of us—everyone—and nobody knows that better than Senator ROBERTS.

Senator ROBERTS and I have never given up on farm bills, and we never gave up on passing the 2018 farm bill even when it got tough. At the beginning of the negotiations, we made a commitment to work together. We visited each other's home States. In fact, twice we visited. I arrived in the Little Apple of Manhattan, KS, wearing K-State purple, which, again on his behalf, I am wearing today. Then, a few weeks later, PAT came to Frankenmuth, MI, and wore an MSU green tie.

Around this time, we also made a commitment to each other to write a bipartisan farm bill. Throughout the entire process, I never doubted that PAT had my back, even when negotiations got tough, and he knew I had his back as well. Thanks to this partnership, we achieved the most bipartisan bill in history. As he said, the first time around, it was 86 votes, and then the final bill was 87 votes. That was the most ''yes'' votes on a farm bill ever. We were able to do that because we had a unique partnership built on trust and mutual respect, and the outcome was a strong, bipartisan bill that provided certainty for farmers—from wheat farmers in Kansas to cherry growers in Michigan. Part of that certainty was with special crop insurance, and nobody deserves more credit for the foundation of that important safety net than Senator PAT ROBERTS.

PAT is also a champion for food security and agriculture exports and agriculture research, which is why he and I worked together to establish the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research in the 2014 farm bill. He also understands the importance of protecting food assistance for children and for families. I was honored to share the Food Research and Action Center Distinguished Service Award with Senator ROBERTS last year for our teamwork.

Above all, it has been an honor working with PAT because he is truly one of a kind. From the moment I met him, it became abundantly clear that he was not the run-of-the-mill politician. Some say it is his unflappable nature. Others say it is his unique sense of humor. Yet, to me, PAT ROBERTS is defined by his loyalty, his integrity, and his dedication to the people of Kansas.

He started his career as a first lieutenant in the Marine Corps. It is clear he has carried that courage and conviction with him throughout his entire life. As he said, he was also a newspaper reporter, which makes sense when you think about his dogged determination and, for better or worse, his ability to be exceptionally quotable. As a public servant, he is so beloved in his home State of Kansas that he has never lost an election—a record 24 and 0. If only his K-State Wildcats could be so lucky.

(Laughter.)

Senator PAT ROBERTS, it has been an honor to be your partner and an even bigger honor to be your friend. So, while your retirement is well-deserved, you will be deeply missed on the Agriculture Committee and in the Senate. Thank you for all you have done for farmers and families and for the American people. I wish you only continued happiness and success as you and Franki and the family move to this next piece of your life.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, my seatmate here, PAT ROBERTS, is going to be missed not just by the whole Senate, not by the Nation, not by the people of Kansas, but by a lot of us he keeps going day-to-day and has for a long time.

I first met PAT ROBERTS in 1979. I had just been elected in 1978 to the U.S. House of Representatives. As has been said here today, he was the chief of staff of distinguished Congressman Keith Sebelius, who was well recognized and well respected on both sides of the aisle. PAT was his chief of staff. Our paths crossed later when he was elected to the Senate. We served on the Intelligence Committee together and on other committees.

He is unique. That wit of his, I think—the humor—is genetic. He has a daughter who is like that, which is wonderful, I think. I told PAT one time: That must be an inherited characteristic. He smiled. He understood. Yet PAT ROBERTS is a lot more than just a little humor to me; he is a serious person. He has had, as you know, a distinguished career as a Kansas State graduate, a Marine officer, a staffer, a Congressman, and one who has chaired both Ag Committees in the House and Senate, which has never been done—40 years of elected office between the House and the Senate.

We are going to miss you, PAT. I am going to miss you. I have sat here with you, and I have sat all over the Senate with you.

I will tell you, if you are feeling down about something or if you are feeling bleak that day, PAT will either straighten you out or make you think that this is not all bad, that America is coming together, and that it is always coming together.

So, PAT, you have your great family up here with you today. Franki has been unique for you. She has been a great influence on you. We are going to miss you. I am going to miss that humor every day. Godspeed.

Mr. President, today, I would like to speak about my longtime colleague and friend, Senator PAT ROBERTS.

PAT and I have served together in Congress for 40 years. It comes as no surprise that he is the longest-serving member of the Kansas delegation.

Born in Topeka, PAT graduated from Kansas State University (K-State) and served as an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps, achieving the rank of First Lieutenant.

He went on to work for Senator Frank Carlson and later Congressman Keith Sebelius, whom he succeeded in the House of Representatives in 1980.

PAT and I were colleagues in the House. It was there that we first became friends.

In 1996, PAT was elected to represent Kansas in the U.S. Senate and is currently finishing his fourth term.

PAT ROBERTS has had quite the career in public service. Over his four decades in Congress, he has served as chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, the Senate Ethics Committee, the Senate Intelligence Committee, and the Senate Agriculture Committee.

PAT ROBERTS is the first Member of Congress in history to have chaired both the House Agriculture Committee and the Senate Agriculture Committee.

He has also served as the ranking member on each of those committees.

In 2018, Senator ROBERTS became the first Member of Congress to write and pass farm bill in both Chambers.

Over the years, his dedication to the people of Kansas has been extraordinary and inspiring.

He arrived on Capitol Hill as a staffer in 1967—and is leaving Washington as the longest serving Member of Congress in his State's history.

It is also worth noting that he never lost a race. Not once.

PAT ROBERTS will undoubtedly be missed in the Senate by his peers on both sides of the aisle.

Senator ROBERTS is currently my deskmate on the Senate floor. I know I will miss his congeniality and humor during our conversations.

Annette and I have enjoyed spending time with PAT and Franki over the years. We wish them all the best.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Dakota.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I first met PAT ROBERTS when I was running for the U.S. House of Representatives for the very first time. I had a friend who worked for PAT, and he got me a meeting with him, which, at the time, was a pretty big deal because he was the chairman of the House Ag Committee, and I was in a Republican primary, where I was over 50 points behind. So the prospects weren't really bright that I was ever going to be somebody who would make it through and end up serving there, but nobody could have been more encouraging or kind. I had a great meeting with him. We talked about agriculture. I am grateful that I have had the opportunity to get to know him pretty well here during my time in the Senate.

One of the reasons we have so much common ground is we both come from States where agriculture is incredibly important. It is the No. 1 industry in South Dakota. I have had the privilege of serving on the Ag Committee with PAT now for more than a decade. I call him ''my chairman'' since he has been my chairman on the Ag Committee for so long. He calls me ''Coop''—a moniker he gave me very early in our acquaintance because he says I look like Gary Cooper. Now, I have to admit that the first time he called me that I had to look up some pictures to see if that were a compliment or not, but I know that he meant it that way. Whenever he introduced me at the Ag Committee, it was always, ''Coop, it's high noon. You're up.'' ''High Noon'' was a famous movie in which Gary Cooper starred with Grace Kelly.

Of course, PAT is, I would say, somebody who is very accomplished in talking about movies from that era and stars from that era. He knows a little bit about everything and a lot about a few things. I call him ''my chairman,'' as I said, because he has been there for an awfully long time, and he never minds the stories and nicknames. They are quintessentially PAT. It is just the way that he conducts himself.

Somebody talked about his sense of humor here this morning. I think Senator MORAN talked about PAT's being a funny guy in the Senate and of PAT's saying he was not a funny guy but a humorous guy. I would say he is a funny person. He is a comedian by nature, and he keeps all of us entertained with his repertoire of country music lyrics, his old movie quotes, and just a storytelling flair. You can be sure that, if you are going to be around PAT for very long, you are going to have a few belly laughs.

I always tell him—and I think it is true, and I think you have kind of heard it today—when he gets up on the floor and speaks or when he speaks at a committee hearing, that when you close your eyes, you kind of hear Paul Harvey. Senator MORAN said he sounded like Jack Benny once in a while, and maybe that is true, too. What I always knew when I was growing up was that Paul Harvey was a voice that was on the radio pretty much every day in our house, and I hear that same sort of Midwestern, resonant, and commonsensical voice whenever I hear PAT get up and talk.

But I will tell you that PAT may have a great sense of humor—he does keep us constantly smiling around here, which is something we don't do near often enough, particularly these days—but he is also very, very serious when it comes to getting things done for the people of Kansas, and they couldn't have a better advocate.

As I said, both PAT and I come from States whose lifeblood is agriculture, and PAT ROBERTS' heart has always beat with the farmers of this country. His advocacy for American agriculture resulted in his serving as chairman of both the House and the Senate Agriculture Committees during his career, and, as already been noted, he is the first Member of Congress in history—first in history—to have served as the chairman of both the House Agriculture and the Senate Agriculture Committee.

He is also the first Member of Congress to have written and passed a farm bill in both Chambers. I think he has worked, as was said earlier, on eight farm bills in all, which is an incredible number. And I am proud to have worked with him on three farm bills in the Senate, including the 2018 farm bill, which passed the Senate with the greatest number of votes of any farm bill in Senate history—a tribute to the hard work that PAT and his staff put into building consensus and reaching out to Members from all across this country who represent different areas, different commodities, different crops, and bringing them together to write a farm bill.

I have been around here long enough and been associated with enough farm bills to know that they tend to be kind of controversial because some people represent cities and maybe don't have agricultural constituencies. So the fact that PAT was successful in getting a farm bill across the finish line here in the Senate with a record 87 votes is a remarkable accomplishment in and of itself.

Of course, PAT's leadership, as has already been pointed out, hasn't been limited to agriculture. Among other things, he has served as chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, where he led a sweeping review of the U.S. intelligence apparatus and advanced a number of reforms to shore up our intelligence and our national security. Then there is his work on biosciences, military issues, education, healthcare, and the list goes on and on and on.

PAT has proudly represented the people of Kansas in Congress for 40 years—16 in the House of Representatives and now 24 in the U.S. Senate—but, as has already been mentioned as well, his public service began long before that with his time as an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps. Once a marine, always a marine. PAT has proudly represented the marines here in Congress. He is currently the most senior marine serving here on Capitol Hill.

The motto of the Marine Corps is ''Semper Fidelis''—always faithful. PAT has lived out that motto over his long career of service to our country, and I hate to think of a Senate without PAT ROBERTS. He will be sorely missed, but he has more than earned his retirement and a chance to spend more time with his wife Franki and his children and grandchildren. I know how much they have contributed to his success here. There aren't any of us who are here who don't have a supportive family, supportive spouse. We are truly grateful for the many contributions that Franki and the family have made to PAT's accomplishments here, his success in the Senate, and I know he is looking forward to spending more time with them in the future.

PAT, thank you for your leadership, for your friendship. May God bless you in your retirement. I will miss you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I rise also to say farewell to a truly great Senator, Senator PAT ROBERTS.

He has been a friend and a mentor of mine in the U.S. Senate. He has been a leader, and there is no doubt—we are hearing it all—about all his accomplishments. He is certainly one of the great State of Kansas's most accomplished Senators ever.

But I would be remiss if I didn't mention that he is also a great Senator for another group of proud Americans, and that would be the U.S. Marine Corps. Senator ROBERTS has taken care of the U.S. Marines during his entire tenure here. If the marines needed something, they knew where to go—the great Senator from Kansas.

As you know, most Senators wear their Senate pin here, indicating that they are a Senator. We are proud to wear that. For the years I have known Senator ROBERTS—he is probably doing it again today—he wears his pin, but sometimes and usually he actually wears the Eagle, Globe, and Anchor, showing—and I think he has one on right now—where so much of his loyalty lies—with the U.S. Marine Corps. So I know that the marines are certainly going to miss Senator ROBERTS. I am certainly going to miss Senator ROBERTS.

You know, just like in his remarks today, he is a man of great wit, great stories, and I have had the honor to hear so many of these stories, and a lot of these stories, of course, for me, involve Alaska and the late great Senator Ted Stevens, who was also a very close friend of PAT's, in the seat which I am honored to hold here in the U.S. Senate. I have learned so much from these stories that I heard from Senator ROBERTS.

Most importantly, he has been a great example for me and so many other Senators. He is a statesman, a marine, an optimist. You heard it in his remarks today. We need more of that. He is a family man, a dedicated husband for over 50 years to a beautiful, wonderful wife; a leader in the Senate—six chairmanships—who gets things done for his State and for his country; and finally, a man of integrity—of integrity.

You know, it is tough duty to be the chairman of the Senate Ethics Committee, but the Senate Ethics Committee is much needed here, and to chair that committee for 24 years is a testament of every single Senator here saying how much they believe in this man's integrity.

I was honored a couple of years ago when PAT asked me to serve on the Eisenhower Memorial Commission. It was a true honor for me, and I will say I saw again one of the great qualities of Senator ROBERTS' tenacity. On a rainy night a few months ago, I attended the dedication ceremony of President Eisenhower and watched as America celebrated a great American, a great Kansan, and there is one person who really made that a reality—Senator PAT ROBERTS.

So today we say farewell to another great Kansan and a great American, my good friend Senator PAT ROBERTS.

Thank you, sir, for the example, for the mentorship, for the friendship, and your great service to the Senate, to Kansas, to America, and to the U.S. Marine Corps. Semper Fi.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MORAN. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

H.R. 6395

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I sound a little redundant here because we have been talking about this bill for a long time now, for several months. People don't realize how long it takes to get a defense authorization bill all the way through the system. There is no doubt in my mind that this is the most important bill of the year, every year, and the importance, I think, is pretty well demonstrated by the fact that we have successfully passed a defense authorization bill every year for 60 years. And I feel we will do the same thing. It could be today, it could be tomorrow, but nonetheless, it is a bill that has to pass.

Now, when President Trump came into office 4 years ago, we had a problem. He inherited a military that had serious problems. In fact, during the last 4 years of the previous administration—that would have been 2010 to 2015—the President depleted the budget or reduced the budget for military by 25 percent.

I don't say that really critically of President Obama because he had different priorities. He was up-front about it and didn't consider this to be high enough of a priority. Now, the sad thing about this is that at the same time that he was reducing our military spending by 25 percent, Russia was increasing theirs threefold and China's was increased by 83 percent. So we dropped ours by 25 percent, and at the same time, China increased theirs 83 percent. That is really serious.

People have this assumption that America has the best of everything and that we don't have any problem out there, but we do, and we found several systems where they were actually getting ahead of us. So, working with Congress, we passed the NDAA appropriations bill. We secured nearly $3 trillion in funding for our Nation's defense. This year alone, the administration will provide more than $740 billion for resources our military needs to keep our country and our troops safe.

The fiscal year 2021 National Defense Authorization Act cements President Trump's hard work to restore our military to be the best fighting force. That is what we are supposed to be doing in America. The NDAA authorizes critical investments to protect our military advantage across all domains, from the skies to the seas and even now through space, a whole new program.

With the President's leadership last year, the NDAA created the Space Force. It is the first time there has been a new branch since 1947, and that happened this year. This year's NDAA makes sure that it is set up successfully.

One of the things about the Space Force that I think people who are somewhat critical of—we were doing a good job in space before without the Space Force, but the fact that we can concentrate all those efforts in one force and be on equal footing—because that is exactly what our primary problem is out there with China and Russia. They both have what would be in their interpretation a space force, so it was important that we did, too, and that was the right thing to do.

This also authorizes the procurement of 93 F–35s, the Joint Strike Fighters, to continue the rebuilding of our overworked combat aircraft. It also includes authorizations for C–130J aircraft, which will modernize our fleet, used for transportation of personnel and also for refuelers and things that we have to do in the military. That is an upgrade of the old version. The J model of the C–130 is a great vehicle. We have to have it authorized and all of the priorities set. That is what this bill does.

We also have authorized the procurement of nine new battle force ships, including the Virginia-class submarines. We talked about that for a long time, and now we are finally doing that.

Another area that we have been doing is our nuclear forces. Our President has been a champion for our nuclear modernization efforts—and for good reason. Our nuclear deterrent is the cornerstone of our national security. The NDAA ensures that our Nation wields a safe and reliable nuclear deterrent by authorizing the resources needed to modernize.

Now, we didn't do this for a long period of time. We fell behind. This bill is reversing that, and we are getting back into the competition—the nuclear competition. That is where the real threat is. Everybody knows that.

I think having the best weapons and equipment is critical, to be sure, but we also need the infrastructure and manpower to support it. Over the past several years, Congress has provided the military with significant funding increases and authorizations to begin and continue critical military construction projects overseas, as well as in our country.

These military construction projects can be found everywhere—from Arkansas to South Carolina, Oklahoma to California, and Missouri to Massachusetts, and all across the country. These investments will also build on our improvements to family housing.

I have heard people complain about what we do for the military in this country, and they try to say that we are spending more on our military than both China and Russia put together. Yeah, that is true, but there is a reason for that, and the reason for that is that the most expensive thing in building a military is individuals—what we are spending on individuals, on housing, and on all these things.

Now, when you are dealing with it, and looking at Communist countries, and you look at Russia and you look at China, they don't take care of their people. They don't have that expense, and that is why we spend more than they do. You know, just in the last 2 years, what we have done to improve housing for our troops—troops and their families—other people don't do that, but we do it. So that is why it is so significant that we do this.

I have a concern that I would like to share, and I hesitate to do this because it will take a little bit of time. People out there don't realize, in a bill like this, what all goes into it. I looked at the people who are heading this thing up, and, yesterday, Senator REED talked about the Democrats and the Republicans and their staff people, who worked so hard. Let me say this: We could not have done this without the cooperation and the love that we have for each other, with Senator REED. I mean, he heads up the minority, and I head up the majority, and we want, together, to make sure we have the best product in the world and that we get the best of everything for our troops in the field.

So I want to really single out Senator REED for all the work that he has done. He has been a great partner and friend throughout this process. And we want to thank our colleagues in the House also—Congressman SMITH and Congressman THORNBERRY. We all worked together.

You know, I have been involved in a lot of these things, and they always end up in the Big 4. That is where you have the leading Democrat and Republican in the House and Democrat and Republican in the Senate, insofar as defense is concerned, and we iron these things out. But in the meantime, this long bill is one that has taken just a lot of work. And I know that, yesterday, Senator REED got a chance to mention the names of and show his appreciation for the Democrats that worked in the minority, and I want us to do the same thing for the Republicans in the majority.

John Bonsell—I don't think there is a person in Washington, DC, who knows more about the military than John Bonsell does. And he put together a group of people. These are all experts. They all work—you know, people don't understand this, but I am talking about weekends, Sundays, times that they have to work to get these things done and to get that bill into position, because you have to pass it through the Senate, and you have to go onto the Senate floor. Then you have to go to the House and the House committee and the House floor, and then you have to have a conference.

There are some things in this bill that we avoided having—and I am thankful that we did, quite frankly—that the House wanted and the Senate didn't want. We were able to iron out these differences and get them done. But to do that, we had to work long hours. I can assure you that the staff worked a lot longer hours than I did.

So I single these people out as really experts, and I want to show them appreciation, and I am just going to read them off to you here: John Bonsell. We know about John Bonsell. We know what he has done. He has been with me since he was, years ago, stationed at Fort Sill in my State of Oklahoma. He has been with me, and he has been heading up this group and putting the group together.

This group consists of: John Wason, Tom Goffus, Stephanie Barna, Greg Lilly, Marta Hernandez, Rick Berger, Jennie Wright, Adam Barker, Adam Trull, Al Edwards, Sean O'Keefe, Brad Patout, Jason Potter, Katie Sutton, Eric Trager, TC Williams, Otis Winkler, Gwyneth Woolwine, Katie Magnus, Leah Brewer, Debbie Chiarello, Gary Howard, Tyler Wilkinson, John Bryant, Griffin Cannon, Keri-Lyn Michalke, Soleil Sykes, Brittany Amador, and Jillian Schofield.

Now, these people, they are just names to a lot of other people, but each one has just really performed long and hard hours. There has been more staff work go into this bill than any other bill that is before us, than anytime year round.

So I just appreciate so much the hard work that has gone there, and we will pass this bill. It is one that if we don't pass it, we are not going to give the resources necessary for our kids in the field to have the safety that we can provide them and to have the equipment.

We want to get to the point where we have the very best of everything out there, and right now, we don't. China and Russia are knocking at our door. We have to do a better job than we have done in the past, and I am going to be working with the administration to do everything we can for the coming

year. But right now, we need to get caught up and go ahead and pass this.

This bill is the roadmap for the next year, and that is why this is important. So I encourage all of us to do what we have to do to get this bill done—hopefully, today, but definitely by tomorrow. I believe that will happen because people do care about our troops. There is no one more deserving in America than our troops who are out there in harm's way, and we are going to make sure that we do the right thing for them.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. FISCHER). The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I come to floor today in complete support of Senator INHOFE, the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, and I come in support of the National Defense Authorization Act. I come to speak to that, and I am so grateful for the Senator from Oklahoma and for his ongoing, determined leadership in making sure that our Nation remains safe and secure and free. And it is because of the work done by Senator INHOFE and his committee and this body and this legislation that we will be voting on. I am so grateful for the leadership of the chairman, and I want to talk, specifically, about the reason I think it is important that we do pass the legislation that the committee has worked so hard on.

So the Presiding Officer knows, as a member of that committee, that this critical national security legislation lays out America's defense and national security priorities, as the Senator from Oklahoma just made up, for the years to come. It sets the policies to defend our Nation, and it supports America's service men and women here at home, as well as those abroad.

I was honored to spend Thanksgiving, again this year, with Wyoming National Guard troops, members of our Air National Guard, and they are serving at this time in Qatar, in the Al Udeid Air Force Base in the Persian Gulf. And when I think of the National Defense Authorization Act, this legislation before us today, I think of them. I think about the members there—Charlie Med, doing medical evacuations and medical transport.

First, I will tell you that, in terms of these Wyoming soldiers who are there, if you are in need of medical care or medical transport, you would be in very capable hands. You also know they have what they need to be able to do the job. I think of them, and I think of their families—the sacrifices that are being made by the families at home, because the families play a significant and important role in this as well.

You know, it is interesting, with so many deployed overseas right now, some of them have found that their deployments have been extended. Because of coronavirus, they are unable to do the transports of moving people back to the United States for the holidays and then back into the fields, so that they have many who felt that they would be home for the holidays who are going to find that they are not able to be home for the holidays. So I think it is very important that the Senate send a strong message that we have their backs, just as they have ours.

This is an incredibly bipartisan piece of legislation—one of the most bipartisan pieces of legislation every year when it comes to the floor of the Senate. It reflects equal input from Republicans and from Democrats. The Senate Armed Services Committee adopted 229 bipartisan amendments before it approved the NDAA this summer by a vote in the committee, on which the Presiding Officer also sits, of 25 to 2.

It is also in line with the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2019. It supports $741 billion in defense funding for the 2021 fiscal year.

The NDAA is really a proud tradition of this institution and of our Nation. This is the 60th year in a row that the Senate has taken up the NDAA, and it has passed this body every year. We need to make sure this year is no exception. The world may be distracted by other things that are going on—certainly, the issue of a coronavirus pandemic—but, make no mistake, China and Russia still have global ambitions, and they pose grave threats to our Nation's security.

The Chinese military has actually stepped up its aggression against its neighbors, and we see it in the South China Sea. Russia is using energy as a weapon against its neighbors, and it continues cyber attacks against governments and institutions around the globe. This legislation will help keep China and Russia in check.

It maintains our high-tech edge, as the chairman of the Armed Services Committee has just said. It modernizes our nuclear weapons system with funding for the Ground Based Strategic Deterrent. It invests in new technologies—hypersonic weapons, biotechnologies, artificial intelligence, cyber security—all of which are designed to help keep us safe and free.

It implements the National Defense Strategy to promote a strong military deterrent and to strive for lasting peace, and it delivers a well-deserved pay raise for our troops, along with high-quality housing, healthcare, and childcare for military families at home, as well as abroad.

So I do want to thank Senator INHOFE and Ranking Member Senator REED of Rhode Island for their work in bringing this bill to the floor. Democrats have a history of opposing sometimes stronger defense funding, especially during the Obama-Biden years, but this makes longer term funding uncertain, and it becomes even more important to do what we need to do now to stand up against our adversaries.

No, we can't afford to slow our Nation's critical defense investments now. This NDAA will protect American leadership and values all around the world, and it will give our Nation what we need to confront the aggressors that I mentioned, like China and Russia. This legislation is strategic, and this legislation is strong. It is smart, and it supports our troops, and it stands up to our enemies. The Senate needs to pass this, the 60th National Defense Authorization Act.

CORONAVIRUS

Madam President, I would now like to take a moment to discuss another topic, and that is coronavirus relief for American families.

Increasingly, we are seeing communities across the country asking for a clear path forward—a path forward to put the virus behind us and to help us grow our economy. The takeaway from last Friday's job report is we really have no time to waste. For the first time since we passed the CARES Act, the jobs report showed signs of a slowing recovery—recovery, yes, but not as rapid as planned.

The sectors hardest hit at the beginning of the pandemic are now hard hit again—retail and food services. The Republican-led CARES Act secured the swiftest, strongest economic recovery in our Nation's history. It added more than 12.3 million jobs in the last 7 months. It has been a great American comeback.

At the end of this month, provisions of the CARES Act are expiring—things like sick leave, unemployment benefits, and tax provisions. We need to extend those. For small businesses, I believe we need to reestablish and refurbish the popular Paycheck Protection Program. The money has gone. I talked to small businesses in Wyoming, talked to county commissioners last night, and talked to our Wyoming stock growers yesterday. We need to replenish the Paycheck Protection Program.

We need to reallocate unused funds for immediate needs now. Republican priorities are American priorities in terms of relief from coronavirus.

We want to make sure, certainly, to fund the distribution of the vaccine, which is ready to go. We need to provide relief for individuals and small businesses, and we need to get kids back into the classroom safely so they don't fall further behind.

The job we need to do is significant, it is serious, and relief is necessary. We need to get a bridge to the point where people have either received the vaccine or there is immunity in communities. Republicans are offering a path forward. We are doing it legislatively.

What we have heard from the Democrats are hard lines, all-or-nothing demands. We have heard them for the last 7 months. Democrats have offered no new proposals for COVID relief. They passed their $3 trillion Fantasy Island bill in May and never lifted a pen after that.

In the last 6 months, Democrats have blocked relief that we have offered on the Senate floor four different times. Last week, Speaker PELOSI said—admitted—that she had held up all those

6 months of coronavirus relief for the American public for political gain, for politics. And we heard it from the minority assistant leader just yesterday, admitting the same, punishing the American people for politics. It is a sad commentary on where that party has been as the American people are asking for relief. Democrats don't have a plan. They played politics with the pandemic.

Again, our path forward is to do the things that we know need to be done: distribute the vaccine, provide Americans with relief, and get Americans' lives back on track. What we hear from Democrats are more lockdowns, more taxes during a pandemic, and more special projects for the far left. It is sad. The Democrats' policies don't meet the moment. We need to get relief to the public now. Democrats are ignoring where we really are in terms of the cost the Americans have borne and the progress that we have made in the recovery, and they have done it for political purposes.

Scientists and researchers are within several days of approval of the vaccine and a distribution nationwide. The country is soon going to have several highly effective vaccines distributed to every State.

In Wyoming, we are looking forward to 5,000 vaccines as early as Monday and 15,000 by the end of the month. I talked to the head of the intensive care unit at the Wyoming Medical Center just the other day—the hospital where I had been chief of staff, where there are increasing numbers of patients in the intensive care unit on respirators, where the staff is exhausted. They say: We need the vaccine for the staff, for the frontline workers, for the healthcare workers, for the elderly, and for the nursing home patients so they don't end up in the hospital and on ventilators.

These are the healthcare heroes of the day, the doctors and nurses taking care of these sick patients. We are going to administer vaccines to them, to the nursing home patients, and to those at high risk. Over the next 3 months, over 1 million people will be vaccinated.

Relief is necessary. In our State, we have lost 299 citizens to coronavirus—a number that I would have thought would not have occurred. This is with people trying to social distance, people trying to do the kinds of things in terms of wearing masks—a behavior that we know, with hygiene, would minimize the spread—but still the disease continues to spread.

The vaccine is the solution, but between now and the time the people can get vaccinated, help is needed, and it is up to this body to act. We still have work to do on behalf of the American people. I hope that the Democrats will join us in this effort this holiday season to get that relief to folks who need it. In the meantime, I say let's continue to do the things that we know work so we can stay safe and our businesses and our country can stay open.

With that, I thank you.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, this country faces an unprecedented crisis in terms of the pandemic and the economic meltdown. I understand that negotiations are currently going on in terms of coming up with an economic package dealing with COVID–19 relief, and I applaud the very hard work that each of the negotiators are doing, Democrats and Republicans. But the truth is that the results up to this point for those negotiations are totally unsatisfactory given the economic desperation facing tens of millions of working families all across this country.

As I think everyone will remember, back in March of this year, at the beginning of the pandemic, the U.S. Congress acted unanimously—unanimously, Democrats and Republicans—and worked with President Trump to come up with an economic package that went a long way toward preventing absolute misery and destitution for many of our people.

Through no fault of their own, COVID–19 resulted in millions of our people losing their jobs and their income. That is what the pandemic did. Nobody is to blame. That is what happened. And in response, in March, Democrats and Republicans in this Congress came together, worked with the President of the United States, and in a very significant way responded to that crisis. That is what we did in March.

What I don't understand is that at a time when, in many ways, the economic and public health crisis is worse today than it was in March, why we are not responding accordingly?

In March, as you know, we passed the $2.2 trillion CARES Act, which included a $600 supplement to unemployed workers, and, my God, what relief that was to millions of workers who had lost their jobs. In addition, we provided a $1,200 direct payment to every working-class adult in this country, plus $500 for their kids.

Once again—and let me repeat this—we did this unanimously, and we did it working with President Trump despite many of the enormous disagreements that a lot of us have with President Trump on so many issues.

Now, what I don't understand is, if we could work together in March, if we could have succeeded 9 months ago, why can we not do exactly the same thing right now? That is why I will insist that any agreement in terms of a COVID–19 relief package must include not only strong unemployment benefits but a $1,200 direct payment for the working families of this country, similarly structured to what was included in the CARES package of March.

I will be introducing an amendment to the 1-week continuing resolution to make sure that occurs, that every working-class adult in this country receives another $1,200 direct payment, plus $500 for their kids. If we could do it in March and it was the right thing then, now, at a time when the situation in many ways is even worse, we can and must do it today.

Every Member of this body, I know, wants to get out of Washington to get home to their families for the holiday season, and put me at the very top of that list. But at a time when so many American families are suffering, when so many people don't know how they are going to feed their kids or prevent being evicted from their homes or how they are going to pay for a doctor's visit, we cannot leave Washington and return to our families unless we address the economic suffering that so many other families are facing.

When a national emergency occurs, the U.S. Government must respond. And we are in a national emergency today. To get out of Washington, to turn our backs on the suffering of so many men, women, and children in Vermont and in every other State in this country, would be immoral, it would be unconscionable, and we cannot allow that to happen.

Again, we must make certain that every working family in this country receives a $1,200 direct payment, plus $500 for their kids. That is the least we can do.

Let me be as clear as I can be. Today, as a result of the horrific pandemic and economic meltdown, the American working class is hurting in a way that has not been experienced since the Great Depression of the 1930s.

In terms of public health, yesterday alone, over 220,000 Americans were diagnosed with COVID–19—yesterday—and tragically, over 3,000 died from this horrific virus. We are experiencing now some of the worst days in terms of cases being diagnosed, in terms of hospitalization, in terms of death. That is where we are today. In other words, more Americans were killed by the coronavirus yesterday than were killed on 9/11.

Tens of millions of our fellow citizens have lost their jobs as a result of the pandemic. They have lost their incomes. They have lost their health insurance. They have depleted their life savings.

Let me tell you this: We deferred evictions. We prevented people from being evicted from their homes. But when at some point that deferment ends, all across the country, people are going to owe thousands and thousands of dollars to their landlords. They don't have the money to pay them. Tens of millions of people are in danger of being evicted.

You may have noticed that there were reports out there that hunger—

this is the United States of America, the wealthiest country in the history of the world. We are looking at numbers that suggest that hunger is at the highest level we have seen in decades. Children in America are going hungry, and all across this country, tenants are worried that they are going to get a knock on the door from the sheriff evicting them from their homes or their apartments and throwing their belongings out on the street to join the other 500,000 Americans who are now homeless.

In America today, over half of our workers are living paycheck-to-paycheck, while one out of every four workers in this country is either unemployed or earning an annual income of less than $20,000 a year. I don't know how anybody makes it on less than $20,000 a year.

During the holiday season to come, over one-third of Americans expect to lose income and are already having a difficult time paying for their basic household expenses.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention that, at a time when so many people in our economy are suffering, it has been far worse for the African-American and Latino communities. During this pandemic, nearly 60 percent of Latino families and 55 percent of African-American families have either experienced a job loss or a pay cut. That is just an unimaginable number. So the general population is suffering—even worse for the African-American and Latino communities.

I should also add that, in the midst of this pandemic, not everybody is suffering. The people on top, some of the billionaires on top, are doing phenomenally well. Over the past 9 months of this pandemic, 650 billionaires—650, not a whole lot of people—have seen their wealth go up by over $1 trillion, during this pandemic, and now own over twice as much wealth as the bottom 50 percent of American people.

This is the United States of America, the richest country in the history of the world. No person in this great country should be going hungry. No person should live in fear of going homeless. No person in America should lack the healthcare they need when they or their kids get sick, especially in the midst of the worst public health crisis in 100 years.

Can you imagine? I mean, it really is unimaginable that we are looking at 220,000 people yesterday having been diagnosed with COVID–19, with the virus, and there are 90 million people in America who are either uninsured or underinsured, and they can't even afford to go to a doctor. But that is exactly what is going on in America today.

This is an unprecedented moment in American history, and the Senate needs to take unprecedented action to protect the working families of this country who are facing extreme economic desperation. If we could act effectively in March through the CARES Act, we can act effectively today as we enter this holiday season.

Once again, I very much appreciate the hard work that has gone into the current $908 billion proposal being worked on by a number of Democratic and Republican Senators, but, simply stated, given the horrific extent of the current crisis and the desperation of so many of our people, this proposal does not go anywhere—anywhere—far enough.

In truth, rather than the $3.4 trillion which we on the Democratic side called for in the Heroes Act and passed in the House—the U.S. House of Representatives a number of months ago passed a $3.4 trillion bill, but what is being discussed and negotiated right now with Democratic and Republican Senators only allocates $348 billion in new money. The remaining $560 billion are funds transferred from the CARES Act that have not yet been obligated.

So what we are talking about now, as opposed to $3.4 trillion passed in the Heroes Act, is, roughly speaking, $348 billion in new money right now. We are talking about, roughly speaking, 10 percent of new money compared to what was passed in the House. That is absurd. That is unacceptable. I am prepared to negotiate, but I cannot negotiate in good faith when we are receiving 10 percent of new money compared to what was passed in the House in the Heroes bill.

Unlike the CARES Act, which we passed unanimously in March, the proposal now being negotiated only provides a $300 supplement for unemployed workers rather than $600 a week. Further, unlike the $1,200 direct payment for every working-class individual and $500 for each child, this agreement being negotiated provides absolutely nothing—zero. Moreover, this proposal does nothing to address the healthcare crisis impacting tens of millions of Americans who cannot afford medical care and has totally inadequate financial assistance for the most vulnerable.

The American people need help, and they need help now. In fact, there has never been a time in the modern history of this country when the American people were in more economic desperation and a time when people needed help. If a government means anything, it means that we cannot turn our backs on tens of millions of families who today are suffering. So we have to make sure that every working individual in America receives at least $1,200 in direct payment. That is what we have to do. We cannot continue the status quo of simply coming in here to work and then going home and going back for our holiday.

So I am going to do everything I can to insist that we make sure that every working person in this country gets a $1,200 direct payment, and we are not going to go home until that happens.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

H.R. 6395

Mr. PAUL. Madam President, the best part of any debate is when you see people twisting themselves in knots, going against their own alleged principles to get their desired result. Today, the subject is war powers. The hawks and the neocons somehow want you to believe, in contrast to all logic, that the President of the United States has the unitary power to go to war anytime he wants, anywhere, free from interference from Congress. That is their stated position anytime war comes up. Yet, today, in the NDAA, they say they now want a President that cannot leave a war without their permission.

How absurd is that? They believe that a President has the power go to war anywhere, anytime, but when a President tries to remove troops they say: Oh, no, no. What we really want are 535 generals in Congress to tell him he can't leave a war. How absurd is that?

It is exactly the opposite of what both the Constitution and logic would dictate. When Congress tried to impose time limits on troop engagements during the Iraq war, the neocons squawked that it would be a mistake to have 535 generals. They said the execution of the war was a prerogative of the President—until a President decided he wanted to leave a war.

During the Bush administration, Dick Cheney and a team of legal apologists argued for something they call the unitary executive theory. Professor Edelson at American University describes this theory of an all-powerful Commander-in-Chief concept: This unitary executive theory claimed to justify, effectively, unchecked Presidential power over the use of military force, the detention and interrogation of prisoners, extraordinary rendition, and intelligence gathering.

According to the unitary executive theory, since the Constitution assigns the President all of the executive power, he can set aside laws that attempt to limit this power over national security. This is an enormous power. Critics say that it effectively puts the President above the law. But this is the belief of the neocons. They say: ''The President is all-powerful,'' until they say, ''Well, unless the President is trying to stop a war, then we must shackle the President with rules and regulations and make sure that he cannot leave a war unless Congress says so.'' That is what the NDAA will do this year.

These same people who advocated for virtually unlimited Commander-in-Chief powers have put forth limits in this bill to restrain a President from removing troops from a country. Effectively, these neocons put forth a belief that the Commander in Chief has virtually unlimited power to initiate war, but they are just fine with hamstringing and preventing the Commander in Chief from ending a war.

Hypocrisy, anyone? Without a shred of embarrassment, these neocons happily constrain a President from leaving a war theater while they also simultaneously argue for a President who can

start war anytime, anywhere across the globe without congressional authorization. Our Founding Fathers would be appalled.

Primary among our Founders' concerns was that the power to initiate war not be in the hands of one person. As Madison wrote in the Federalist Papers, the executive is the branch of government most prone to war. Therefore, the Constitution, with studied care, vested the war-making powers in the legislature.

To our Founders, initiation of war was the sole prerogative of Congress. But a great deal of discretion was given to the President in article II to execute the war. The neocons forever believed in this discretion. They said the war shouldn't be fought by 535 generals in Congress; we should give the President the freedom and power to execute the war. And, largely, they are correct—until they pop their heads up today and say, unless the President wants to stop a war, then we take it all back. What we really want is a President who can't execute a war or execute the end of a war without the permission of Congress.

Likely, our Founders would have agreed with the common complaint that we don't need 535 generals in Congress. In other words, success in war requires most decisions on executing the war to be in the hands of one person—the President. Even I, who have been opposed to most of the recent overseas activities and wars—even I believe that once Congress initiates it, most of the decisions should be made by the President.

The decision to go to war requires the consensus, the initiation—the beginning of war requires the consensus of 535 Members of Congress under the Constitution. It is very clear. They debated it over and over, and they said: Initiation, declaration of war, should be done by Congress. But the execution of the war would largely be left up to the President. Many, many current and former Members of Congress have agreed.

Representative LIZ CHENEY has argued that the nature of military and foreign policy demands the unity of the singular executive and that the Founders certainly did not intend, nor does history substantiate, the idea that Congress should legislate specific limits on the President's powers in wartime.

LIZ CHENEY, who is also, ironically, the author of this amendment to the NDAA, said we shouldn't limit the President's powers in times of war and then she authors a limitation on the President removing troops from war. So which is it? I guess she is only for this unitary power—she is only for this all-powerful Commander in Chief when they fight war. But if a President wants to end a war, oh, no, Congress has to stop them at all costs from ending a war.

I think what comes out of this is that the neoconservative philosophy isn't so much about a unitary executive, isn't so much about an all-powerful Commander in Chief, the philosophy of these people is about war and substantiating war and making sure that it becomes and is perpetual war.

Senator GRAHAM said the one thing he has been consistent on is that ''there is 1 Commander in Chief, not 535'' these are his words ''and I believe this Commander in Chief and all future Commanders in Chief are unique in our Constitution and have an indispensable role to play when it comes to protecting the homeland. If we have 535 commanders in chief, then we are going to be less safe.''

I guess, except for this bill, which actually creates 535 generals in Congress to tell the President, not just this President—and some of it is anger. It is partisan anger. People don't like President Trump—but this will bind all future Presidents. This isn't just about this President.

When LINDSEY GRAHAM says we don't want 535 Commanders in Chief, if this is his belief, he should vote against this bill because this bill creates 535 Commanders in Chief.

The late Senator McCain said: ''It would be a very serious situation where we now have 535 commanders in chief . . . the President of the United States is the only commander.''

Senator INHOFE, the chairman of the Armed Services Committee, has said: ''We don't need the 535 generals in Congress telling our troops how to win this fight,'' except for we are going to pass a bill that I assume all of these folks will vote for that actually creates 535 generals in Congress to say to the President—to this one or any President—that he can't leave the theater in Afghanistan without their permission. It is a tragedy; it is hypocrisy; and it is a terrible bill.

Of course, there is also former Vice President Dick Cheney, who was adamant that the War Powers Resolution, which requires the President to simply report to Congress on matters of war, was unconstitutional as ''an infringement of the president's authority as the commander in chief.''

Senator ALEXANDER also said ''there is a reason why we don't have 535 commanders in chief or 100 commanding generals each saying charge down this street or over that hill.''

I tend to agree, except for it seems to be one-sided. These people seem to believe that we shouldn't have 535 generals in Congress when it is about initiating war. But when it comes to removing troops from the battle, when it comes to finally coming home after America's longest war in Afghanistan, they all say: Oh, no, no, no. You are wrong. We are not going to let you come home. We are going to restrict and restrain the powers of the Commander in Chief because we don't want to end the Afghan war.

It seems as if the only thing you can conclude is they really don't care about their theory of an all-powerful Commander in Chief; they care more about perpetuating the Afghan war.

Until recently, this chorus of voices sang of nothing but the almighty, endless powers that Presidents have as Commander in Chief. That is, until a President arrived on the scene who wanted to reduce overseas troop levels and end America's longest war in Afghanistan. Then the promoters of a strong Commander in Chief suddenly jumped ship and began advocating the opposite. They began advocating that 535 Members of Congress should, indeed, become generals and should limit the President's ability to remove troops from Afghanistan.

Which is it? Are you for this unlimited power of the President to commence and execute war or are you only for it when they are initiating war, when they are continuing war, and against Presidential prerogative if the President chooses to end a war?

Shouldn't we call out this hypocrisy? Shouldn't someone stand up and express and expose this rank demagoguery? Shouldn't someone cry foul that the advocates of unlimited Presidential power want it only to apply when that President advocates for war? But the moment a President advocates to end a war or lessen overseas troops and these deployments, he or she must be shackled by 535 generals.

This Defense authorization bill could more aptly be called ''A Bill to Prevent the President from Ending the Afghan War.'' We never actually give the real titles to the bill, but that would be an accurate title: ''A Bill to Prevent the President from Ending the Afghan War.''

As such, any serious advocate for ending the Afghan war should vote against this monstrosity. The neocon advocates for Presidential war powers should own up to their hypocrisy and admit that their love of perpetual war trumps their oft-stated unitary executive theory.

In reality, the neocons are enamored of their theory of unbounded Presidential power only when that power is used to foment war. The minute a President decides to end war, the neocons' true stripes are exposed as they beat their chest and proclaim—as 535 generals might—that the President will not be allowed to remove troops without congressional permission.

This bill sets a very dangerous precedent for limiting a President's power to end war and should be vigorously opposed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. YOUNG). The Senator from Missouri.

DUCK BOAT SAFETY ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2019

Mr. HAWLEY. Mr. President, July 19, 2018, is a date that we in Missouri won't ever forget. There were 17 people who lost their lives and 11 who were injured in a boating accident on Table Rock Lake. During a severe thunderstorm, a duck boat called Stretch Duck

7 sank with 31 people aboard, including children. Today marks 875 days since that tragedy.

To the families and friends who lost loved ones that day, I am sure that every one of those 875 days since has come with a new and painful reminder of your loss.

I am here today to honor those who lost their lives, the 17 victims of that tragedy—a tragedy that should never have happened—and also to honor the survivors who live with the memory of that tragedy every day. They deserve to be remembered. They deserve to be respected by this body, and I am here to do something about it. The time has come to act.

I am here to ask this body to do its job and finally pass my bill that will impose tough, new security restrictions and measures on every duck boat operation in America. This is a bill I introduced almost 2 years ago that passed the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation unanimously.

Now, truth be told, it has taken this body far too long to act. The tragedy in Missouri may have been one of the more recent duck boat tragedies, but it is far from the first. In 1999, 13 people were killed when a duck boat sank during a tour of Lake Hamilton in Arkansas. In the years since, the death toll has climbed to over 40. In 2001, there was a duck boat accident in Seattle, WA. In 2010, a tugboat on the Delaware River in Philadelphia collided with a duck boat. In 2013, a duck boat caught fire in the San Francisco Bay. I could go on.

Now, the National Transportation Safety Board has issued numerous recommendations to improve duck boat safety, and it has issued many of these recommendations multiple times. The U.S. Coast Guard, which regulates these crafts, has recently concurred with quite a number of these recommendations. Yet, to be frank, we need more than recommendations. We need more than studies and surveys. We need laws. It has been 875 days, and we have seen investigation after investigation conclude the same thing: that lives could have been saved if action had been taken—if this body had acted, if the security measures had been put in place.

The time for delay has passed, and the time to act is now in order to save future lives and to make sure that the tragedy that happened in Branson is not repeated again in Missouri or in any other State.

My legislation would take those recommendations and put them into law. It includes provisions to ensure that duck boats remain buoyant during flooding. It requires dangerous canopies to be removed. It requires life jackets for passengers. My legislation would also ensure that duck boats would not go out during severe weather and also require the operators of duck boats to know what the weather is—a commonsense provision but one not currently required under the law.

I thank Senator BLUNT, Senator COTTON, and Senator DUCKWORTH for supporting this legislation and for their strong support for lifesaving provisions. I thank Chairman WICKER for moving this bill through the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, where, once again, it received unanimous support. Now it is time to make it the law of the land.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be discharged from further consideration of S. 1031 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1031) to implement recommendations related to the safety of amphibious passenger vessels, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. HAWLEY. I ask unanimous consent that the Hawley substitute amendment be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 2698) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Duck Boat Safety Enhancement Act of 2020''.

SEC. 2. SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR AMPHIBIOUS PASSENGER VESSELS.

(a) SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS.—

(1) BUOYANCY REQUIREMENTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of completion of a Coast Guard contracted assessment by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine of the technical feasibility, practicality, and safety benefits of providing reserve buoyancy through passive means on amphibious passenger vessels, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating may initiate a rulemaking to prescribe in regulations that operators of amphibious passenger vessels provide reserve buoyancy for such vessels through passive means, including watertight compartmentalization, built-in flotation, or such other means as the Secretary may specify in the regulations, in order to ensure that such vessels remain afloat and upright in the event of flooding, including when carrying a full complement of passengers and crew.

(2) INTERIM REQUIREMENTS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall initiate a rulemaking to implement interim safety policies or other measures to require that operators of amphibious passenger vessels operating in waters subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, as defined in section 2.38 of title 33, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation) comply with the following:

(A) Remove the canopies of such vessels for waterborne operations, or install in such vessels a canopy that does not restrict either horizontal or vertical escape by passengers in the event of flooding or sinking.

(B) If the canopy is removed from such vessel pursuant to subparagraph (A), require that all passengers don a Coast Guard type-approved personal flotation device before the onset of waterborne operations of such vessel.

(C) Install in such vessels at least one independently powered electric bilge pump that is capable of dewatering such vessels at the volume of the largest remaining penetration in order to supplement the vessel's existing bilge pump required under section 182.520 of title 46, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation).

(D) Verify the watertight integrity of such vessel in the water at the outset of each waterborne departure of such vessel.

(b) REGULATIONS REQUIRED.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall initiate a rulemaking for amphibious passenger vessels operating in waters subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, as defined in section 2.38 of title 33, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation). The regulations shall include, at a minimum, the following:

(1) SEVERE WEATHER EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS.—Requirements that an operator of an amphibious passenger vessel—

(A) check and notate in the vessel's logbook the National Weather Service forecast before getting underway and periodically while underway;

(B) in the case of a watch or warning issued for wind speeds exceeding the wind speed equivalent used to certify the stability of an amphibious passenger vessel, proceed to the nearest harbor or safe refuge; and

(C) maintain and monitor a weather monitor radio receiver at the operator station that may be automatically activated by the warning alarm device of the National Weather Service.

(2) PASSENGER SAFETY.—Requirements—

(A) concerning whether personal flotation devices should be required for the duration of an amphibious passenger vessel's waterborne transit, which shall be considered and determined by the Secretary;

(B) that operators of amphibious passenger vessels inform passengers that seat belts may not be worn during waterborne operations;

(C) that before the commencement of waterborne operations, a crew member visually check that each passenger has unbuckled the passenger's seatbelt; and

(D) that operators or crew maintain a log recording the actions described in subparagraphs (B) and (C).

(3) TRAINING.—Requirement for annual training for operators and crew of amphibious passengers vessels, including—

(A) training for personal flotation and seat belt requirements, verifying the integrity of the vessel at the onset of each waterborne departure, identification of weather hazards, and use of National Weather Service resources prior to operation; and

(B) training for crewmembers to respond to emergency situations, including flooding, engine compartment fires, man overboard situations, and in water emergency egress procedures.

(4) RECOMMENDATIONS FROM REPORTS.—Requirements to address recommendations from the following reports, as practicable and to the extent that such recommendations are under the jurisdiction of the Coast Guard:

(A) The National Transportation Safety Board's Safety Recommendation Reports on the Amphibious Passenger Vessel incidents

in Table Rock, Missouri, Hot Springs, Arkansas, and Seattle, Washington.

(B) The Coast Guard's Marine Investigation Board reports on the Stretch Duck 7 sinkings at Table Rock, Missouri, and the Miss Majestic sinking near Hot Springs, Arkansas.

(5) INTERIM REQUIREMENTS.—The interim requirements described in subsection (a)(2), as appropriate.

(c) PROHIBITION ON OPERATION OF NONCOMPLIANT VESSELS.—Commencing as of the date specified by the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating pursuant to subsection (d), any amphibious passenger vessel whose configuration or operation does not comply with the requirements under subsection (a)(2) (or subsection (a)(1), if prescribed) may not operate in waters subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, as defined in section 2.38 of title 33, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation).

(d) DEADLINE FOR COMPLIANCE.—The regulations and interim requirements described in subsections (a) and (b) shall require compliance with the requirements in the regulations not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, as the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating may specify in the regulations.

(e) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the promulgation of the regulations required under subsection (a), the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall provide a report to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives regarding the status of the implementation of the requirements included in such regulations.

The bill (S. 1031), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

Mr. HAWLEY. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021—Conference Report—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, as we all know, the clock is ticking down on coronavirus relief. Both the Senate and the House are set to wrap up the work of the 116th Congress in just a few days, but we don't appear to be much closer to a deal now than we were this summer.

Over the last few months, my colleagues and I on this side of the aisle have attempted to reach an agreement that could gain bipartisan support. We have proposed a number of targeted packages which have included funding for the most urgent bipartisan priorities, things like vaccine development, schools, and the Paycheck Protection Program. We have tried to pass individual proposals that have had near unanimous support, like a 1-week extension of unemployment insurance benefits.

At every turn in the runup to the election, our Democratic colleagues have simply stood in the way. It is not just Republicans' ideas they have rejected. The administration has repeatedly tried to negotiate with the Speaker, with the latest attempt being earlier this week. Oddly enough, our Democratic colleagues have blasted the offer as being an attempt to obstruct negotiations. This is a parallel universe, where up is down and down is up, apparently, for our Democratic colleagues.

Only in the Democrats' alternate reality is more compromise an example of obstruction. Based on everything we have seen so far, it appears they have no real interest in reaching a deal. And I conclude that only because they have stood in the way of every attempt so far to come to an agreement and seem perfectly content to maintain the status quo, which nobody claims to like, even as the American people continue to call for additional support.

Almost every Member of Congress has said they want to pass another relief bill before the end of the year, but as we stand here today, we are empty-handed despite the fact that we agree on a majority of what should be in that package. Republicans and Democrats agree that funding for schools, vaccines, the Paycheck Protection Program, and assistance for the hardest hit Americans is desperately needed. But there appear to be two hangups in the negotiations: liability protections and State and local aid.

I think it is safe to say, in all fairness to our Democratic friends, they just don't support liability protections, whether it is for healthcare workers, hospitals, schools, churches, or nonprofits that can be hit with a wave of litigation unless we act. And we know on this side of the aisle Republicans don't support hundreds of billions of dollars of new money to bail out cities and States that have been mismanaged for decades.

With neither side willing to budge, Leader MCCONNELL made the only reasonable suggestion I have heard in light of the stalemate. He said that setting these two issues aside seems to make sense so we can do what we can do and include all the things we agree on in the coming days while we hold off those more controversial pieces until the start of the next year.

Our friends across the aisle apparently have never heard of the 80–20 rule, and that makes sense, I guess, in this alternate reality where NANCY PELOSI said that ''nothing is better than something.'' I have never heard anyone say that before. It is rather shocking to me.

Based on their reception of the long list of proposals so far this year, I am sure it will come as no surprise that they have basically rejected any entreaties that we have made. It is clear to me that they aren't approaching these negotiations by asking what is best for the 330 million people in this country; their concern appears to be what is best for them politically—certainly in the runup to the election, where they denied the American people the benefits of another COVID–19 relief bill—or when it comes to liability protection, the trial lawyers.

Now, I am a recovering lawyer myself. I don't hold a grudge against lawyers earning a living. But the fact is, we ought to be concerned about the American people and not lawyers, who, I dare say, are probably doing pretty well relative to those who aren't getting a paycheck or are in lockdowns at home.

So our Democratic colleagues have employed the same all-or-nothing approach that has been their hallmark, and, as the American people have learned over and over again, it almost always leads to nothing. I mean, so much of this is so obvious, it seems to me, you almost are embarrassed to say it, but when your attitude is ''all or nothing,'' you usually end up with nothing. And that is where we are today—no unemployment benefit extension, no funding for schools, no money for vaccine distribution, no second draw on the Paycheck Protection Program. Nothing. Zip. Nada.

Our Democratic colleagues have proven over and over again that either they don't want to negotiate or they have forgotten how. They aren't interested in compromise, which is the only way you get things done here. It sounds like they are more interested in messaging than they are in actually achieving a result—making a law, something the President will sign after it passes both Houses.

So our colleagues need to make a decision, and they need to make it quickly. Are they willing to work with us and send a bill to the President that includes most of what they would like to see in a relief bill, if not all, or are they willing to tank everything—funding for State and local government, vaccines, schools, small businesses, families who are hurting and anxious and in financial distress? Are they willing to throw them under the bus if they can't get everything they want? Again, the choice seems so obvious to me. I am sorry I have to say it, but it has become obvious that, so far, Democratic leadership has no interest in resolving these negotiations in a way that gets them most of what they want without taking the risk that we end up empty-handed.

TRIBUTE TO PAT ROBERTS

Mr President, this morning, during the remarks by the senior Senator from Kansas, I was stuck in the Judiciary Committee, and so I wasn't able to be here, although I have read and heard reported back to me some of the best moments of his remarks, and I just wanted to come here to the floor and say a few words about our friend PAT ROBERTS as we prepare to bid him farewell.

PAT has represented the people of Kansas for four decades—16 years in the House and 24 years here in the Senate—and I bet it seems like a blink of an eye. During that time, he has established himself as a national leader—in agriculture in particular—a dependable

voice for rural Americans, and an unwavering advocate for our Nation's servicemembers, as you would expect a former marine to be. But he has also been a source of great comedic relief in a place where people often take themselves too seriously.

A few years ago, during a Senate Finance Committee hearing, we heard PAT's cell phone ringing. Much to everyone's enjoyment, it wasn't a factory-set ring tone; it was the song ''Let It Go'' from the Disney movie ''Frozen.'' When he was asked if he had seen the stage adaptation, he equipped: ''I might even be in it.''

Well, his acting chops are clearly not adequate for Broadway, but there is certainly enough to impress those of us here in this Chamber. He has a great Marlon Brando impression and a knack for injecting quotes from the movie ''On the Waterfront'' at the perfect moment. And we all know that he is a great country music fan, particularly of Ray Price.

PAT is happy to entertain just about anyone who will listen to his talent for storytelling, and I know members of my staff have enjoyed learning about his time in the Marine Corps—at least those PG-rated moments.

It is fitting that Washington Magazine has given him the title of ''Funniest Senator,'' a number of times even referring to him as the ''Senate's Jay Leno.'' You never know what PAT is going to say, but it is invariably entertaining and always amusing.

As much as we are going to miss his frequent jokes and clever one-liners, we are going to miss his steadfast leadership and friendship even more—as I said earlier, especially when it comes to his advocacy on behalf of farmers and ranchers and folks who put the food on our tables and the clothes on our backs.

PAT has had his hand and his fingerprints on every Agriculture bill for the last four decades. Those farm bills are tough—trying to marry up the interests of urban folks and food stamps and things like that along with the needs of our production agriculture, our farmers and ranchers. He was the first person to chair the Agriculture Committee in both the House and the Senate, as well as the first to write and pass a farm bill in both Chambers. He has been an unrelenting champion for our Nation's farmers and ranchers and producers, and Texas agriculture has benefited, too, from his work to remove trade barriers and burdensome regulations that have threatened their competitiveness or, in some cases, their survival.

While PAT's accomplishments as chairman of the Agriculture Committee are among his most celebrated, his remarkable career in public service has led to a long list of wins for the American people. He has led efforts to help improve access to quality healthcare for all Americans. He has helped keep taxes low and improve economic opportunities for families all across the country. And, of course, he has advocated for our servicemembers and our veterans. PAT even chaired the Senate Intelligence Committee for a time, and he helped to identify systemic problems in the intelligence community and enact critical reforms.

Finally, in a great labor of love, which seems like, I am sure, it has taken decades to accomplish, a few months ago, PAT was able to see his decades-long fight come to a satisfying conclusion when the Dwight David Eisenhower Memorial was completed. This incredible monument to our 34th President would not have been possible without PAT ROBERTS. He has worked on it for the last 20 years, most of it behind the scenes, and it seems like the perfect culmination of his service in Congress.

While PAT's sense of humor and devotion to public service are often on public display, members of our Senate community have also come to know of the size of his heart. He has got a big one. When a former member of PAT's staff unexpectedly passed away this last year, he was there to comfort the family and friends and share wonderful stories about Chris in a speech at his memorial service, because when you work for PAT ROBERTS—or I should say with PAT ROBERTS—you are not just a cog in a policymaking or legislative machine; you are family.

You would be hard-pressed to find a better friend to Kansans, a more devoted ally for our farmers and ranchers, a bigger K-State fan, or a more loved Member of the Senate than our friend PAT ROBERTS. There is no question we will miss him and the countless laughs he has provided over the years, but I know he is eager to spend more time in greener pastures with his wonderful wife Franki. PAT has earned a well-deserved retirement, and I know he is looking forward to spending more time with his and Franki's children and growing number of grandchildren.

PAT, we wish you well.

PURPLE BOOK CONTINUITY ACT OF 2019.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1520 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1520) to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the publication of a list of licensed biological products, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Alexander substitute amendment at the desk be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 2699) was agreed, to as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

The Act may be cited as the ''Purple Book Continuity Act of 2020''.

SEC. 2. BIOLOGICAL PRODUCT PATENT TRANSPARENCY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 351(k) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 262(k)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(9) PUBLIC LISTING.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—

''(i) INITIAL PUBLICATION.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Purple Book Continuity Act of 2020, the Secretary shall publish and make available to the public in a searchable, electronic format—

''(I) a list of each biological product, by nonproprietary name (proper name), for which, as of such date of enactment, a biologics license under subsection (a) or this subsection is in effect, or that, as of such date of enactment, is deemed to be licensed under this section pursuant to section 7002(e)(4) of the Biologics Price Competition and Innovation Act of 2009;

''(II) the date of licensure of the marketing application and the application number; and

''(III) with respect to each biological product described in subclause (I), the licensure status, and, as available, the marketing status.

''(ii) REVISIONS.—Every 30 days after the publication of the first list under clause (i), the Secretary shall revise the list to include each biological product which has been licensed under subsection (a) or this subsection during the 30-day period or deemed licensed under this section pursuant to section 7002(e)(4) of the Biologics Price Competition and Innovation Act of 2009.

''(iii) PATENT INFORMATION.—Not later than 30 days after a list of patents under subsection (l)(3)(A), or a supplement to such list under subsection (l)(7), has been provided by the reference product sponsor to the subsection (k) applicant respecting a biological product included on the list published under this subparagraph, the reference product sponsor shall provide such list of patents (or supplement thereto) and their corresponding expiry dates to the Secretary, and the Secretary shall, in revisions made under clause (ii), include such information for such biological product. Within 30 days of providing any subsequent or supplemental list of patents to any subsequent subsection (k) applicant under subsection (l)(3)(A) or (l)(7), the reference product sponsor shall update the information provided to the Secretary under this clause with any additional patents from such subsequent or supplemental list and their corresponding expiry dates.

''(iv) LISTING OF EXCLUSIVITIES.—For each biological product included on the list published under this subparagraph, the Secretary shall specify each exclusivity period under paragraph (6) or paragraph (7) for which the Secretary has determined such biological product to be eligible and that has not concluded.

''(B) REVOCATION OR SUSPENSION OF LICENSE.—If the license of a biological product is determined by the Secretary to have been revoked or suspended for safety, purity, or potency reasons, it may not be published in

the list under subparagraph (A). If such revocation or suspension occurred after inclusion of such biological product in the list published under subparagraph (A), the reference product sponsor shall notify the Secretary that—

''(i) the biological product shall be immediately removed from such list for the same period as the revocation or suspension; and

''(ii) a notice of the removal shall be published in the Federal Register.''.

(b) REVIEW AND REPORT ON TYPES OF INFORMATION TO BE LISTED.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall—

(1) solicit public comment regarding the type of information, if any, that should be added to or removed from the list required by paragraph (9) of section 351(k) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 262(k)), as added by subsection (a); and

(2) transmit to Congress an evaluation of such comments, including any recommendations about the types of information that should be added to or removed from the list.

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

The bill (H.R. 1520), as amended, was passed.

GREAT LAKES ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITIVITY INDEX ACT OF 2020

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Chair lay before the Senate the message to accompany S. 1342.

The Presiding Officer laid before the Senate the following message from the House of Representatives:

Resolved, That the bill from the Senate (S. 1342) entitled ''An Act to require the Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere to update periodically the environmental sensitivity index products of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for each coastal area of the Great Lakes, and for other purposes.'', do pass with an amendment.

MOTION TO CONCUR

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I move to concur in the House amendment, and I ask unanimous consent that the motion be agreed to and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES LEGISLATIVE ENGAGEMENT ACT OF 2019

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 333, S. 1310.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1310) to strengthen the participation of elected national legislators in the activities of the Organization of American States and reaffirm United States support for Organization of American States human rights and anti-corruption initiatives, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be withdrawn; that the Wicker-Cardin substitute amendment at the desk be agreed to; and that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment, in the nature of a substitute, was withdrawn.

The amendment (No. 2700) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Organization of American States Legislative Engagement Act of 2020''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The Charter of the Organization of American States establishes that ''representative democracy is an indispensable condition for the stability, peace and development of the region''.

(2) Article 2 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter of the Organization of American States affirms that ''the effective exercise of representative democracy is the basis for the rule of law and of the constitutional regimes of the member states of the Organization of American States''.

(3) Article 26 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter states that ''the OAS will continue to carry out programs and activities designed to promote democratic principles and practices and strengthen a democratic culture in the Hemisphere''.

(4) In accordance with the OAS Charter and the Inter-American Democratic Charter, the OAS General Assembly, OAS Permanent Council, and OAS Secretariat have established a wide range of cooperative agreements with domestic and international organizations, including national legislative institutions.

(5) In 2004, OAS General Assembly Resolution 2044 (XXXIV–O/04) appealed for the ''strengthening of legislatures, as well as inter-parliamentary cooperation on key items of the inter-American agenda, with a view, in particular, to generating initiatives to fight corruption, poverty, inequality, and social exclusion''.

(6) In 2005, OAS General Assembly Resolution 2095 (XXXV–O/05) called on the OAS Secretariat to ''invite [. . .] the presidents or speakers of the national legislative institutions of the Americas, i.e., congresses, parliaments, or national assemblies, [. . .] to attend a special meeting of the Permanent Council [. . .] for the initiation of a dialogue on topics on the hemispheric agenda''.

(7) In 2014 and 2015, the OAS Secretariat expanded its engagement with elected national legislators from OAS member states by convening two meetings of presidents of national legislatures, first in Lima, Peru and subsequently in Santiago, Chile.

(8) However, no permanent procedures exist to facilitate the participation of elected national legislators from OAS member states in OAS activities.

(9) The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Parliamentary Assembly has proven successful at strengthening inter-parliamentary cooperation among its member states.

SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is that sense of Congress that—

(1) elected national legislators play an essential role in the exercise of representative democracy in the Americas, including by—

(A) promoting economic freedom and respect for property rights;

(B) promoting the rule of law and combating corruption;

(C) defending human rights and fundamental freedoms; and

(D) advancing the principles and practices expressed in the Charter of the Organization of American States, the American Declaration on the Rights and Duties of Man, and the Inter-American Democratic Charter;

(2) establishing procedures and mechanisms to facilitate the participation of elected national legislators from OAS member states in OAS activities could contribute to the promotion of democratic principles and practices and strengthen a democratic culture in the Western Hemisphere;

(3) increasing and strengthening the participation of elected national legislators from OAS member states in OAS activities could advance the principles and proposals expressed in section 4 of the Organization of American States Revitalization and Reform Act of 2013 (Public Law 113–41; 127 Stat. 549);

(4) the OAS General Assembly, OAS Permanent Council, and OAS Secretariat should take steps to facilitate greater participation of elected national legislators from OAS member states in OAS activities;

(5) the OAS Permanent Council resolutions titled ''Guidelines for the Participation of Civil Society in OAS Activities'' and ''Strategies for Increasing and Strengthening Participation by Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities'' should serve as important references for efforts to bolster the participation of elected national legislators from OAS member states in OAS activities; and

(6) the successful experience of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Parliamentary Assembly should serve as a model to the OAS in creating a similar mechanism.

SEC. 4. STRENGTHENING PARTICIPATION OF ELECTED NATIONAL LEGISLATORS AT THE OAS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, acting through the United States Mission to the Organization of American States, should use the voice and vote of the United States to support the creation of procedures for the Organization of American States that—

(1) enhance the participation of democratically elected national legislators from OAS member state countries in OAS activities that advance the principles of the Inter-American Democratic Charter and the core values of the OAS consistent with the principles and proposals expressed in section 4 of the Organization of American States Revitalization and Reform Act of 2013 (Public Law 113–41; 127 Stat. 549);

(2) create an annual forum for democratically elected national legislatures from OAS member states to discuss issues of hemispheric importance, including regional efforts to defend human rights and combat transnational criminal activities, corruption, and impunity;

(3) permit elected national legislators from OAS member states to make presentations, contribute information, and provide expert advice, as appropriate, to the OAS Secretariat, OAS Permanent Council, and OAS General Assembly about OAS activities on issues of hemispheric importance;

(4) lead to the creation of a mechanism to regularly facilitate the participation of elected national legislators in OAS activities; and

(5) reinforce OAS Secretariat programs that provide technical assistance for the modernization and institutional strengthening of national legislatures from OAS member states.

(b) EXPENSES.—The Secretary of State, acting through the United States Mission to

the Organization of American States, as appropriate, shall seek to ensure that expenses related to the procedures set forth in this Act do not increase member quotas, assessed fees, or voluntary contributions and that the Secretariat of the OAS shall seek to ensure shared financial responsibilities among the member states in facilitating the financial support necessary to carry out this initiative.

SEC. 5. SUPPORT FOR OAS HUMAN RIGHTS AND ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVES.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the efforts of the OAS Secretary General and Secretariat to combat corruption and impunity in the Americas represent important contributions to strengthening the rule of law and democratic governance in the Americas; and

(2) the United States should support efforts to ensure the effectiveness and independence of OAS initiatives to combat corruption and impunity in the Americas.

(b) ANTI-CORRUPTION AND HUMAN RIGHTS PROMOTION STRATEGY.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of the Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives a strategy for supporting OAS anti-corruption and human rights promotion efforts. The strategy should include—

(1) an assessment of United States programs, activities, and initiatives with the OAS to support anti-corruption and human rights promotion in the Americas;

(2) a summary of the steps taken by the United States Mission to the OAS to strengthen anti-corruption and anti-impunity efforts in the Americas;

(3) an assessment of necessary reforms and initiatives to prioritize and reinforce the OAS Secretary General and Secretariat's efforts to advance human rights and combat corruption and impunity in the Americas;

(4) a detailed plan to facilitate increased OAS collaboration, as appropriate, with relevant stakeholders, including elected national legislators and civil society, in support of an approach to promote human rights and combat transnational criminal activities, corruption, and impunity in the Americas; and

(5) a detailed plan for implementing the strategy set forth in this section of the Act.

SEC. 6. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on OAS processes, initiatives, and reforms undertaken to implement section 4, actions taken to implement the strategy required under section 5(b), and steps taken to implement the Organization of American States Revitalization and Reform Act of 2013 (Public Law 113–41). The report should include—

(1) an analysis of the progress made by the OAS to adopt and effectively implement reforms and initiatives to advance human rights and combat corruption and impunity in the Americas; and

(2) a detailed assessment of OAS efforts to increase stakeholder engagement to advance human rights and combat corruption and impunity in the Americas.

(b) BRIEFINGS.—Not later than one year after the Secretary of State submits the report required under subsection (a), and annually thereafter for two additional years, the Secretary shall provide to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives a briefing on the information required to be included in such report.

SEC. 7. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON ELECTED NATIONAL LEGISLATOR.

It is the sense of Congress that an elected national legislator participating in the activities outlined in this Act should be an individual that—

(1) was elected as a result of periodic, free and fair elections; and

(2) is not known to be under investigation or convicted for corruption or transnational criminal activities, including trafficking of people, goods, or illicit narcotics, money-laundering, terrorist financing, acts of terrorism, campaign finance violations, bribery, or extortion.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I know of no further debate on the bill, as amended.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 1310), as amended, was passed.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021—CONFERENCE REPORT—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I see that my colleague and classmate is here on the floor. I got to hear his speech earlier today, and it was one of the best speeches that he has given and the best instruction that all of us should listen to.

He has far more experience than just the time that he was a classmate with me, because he served in the House as well. He is Mr. Agriculture and has solved a lot of problems in those areas, and it has been a pleasure to be here with him. And I leave with him. He has done an outstanding job.

We also like some of the same literature.

THE BUDGET

Mr. President, it has been an honor to serve as the chairman of the Senate Budget Committee for the past 6 years. There is no question that these have been challenging times. They have culminated in the current pandemic that we continue to confront. Throughout all of these challenges, I am proud to say that the committee has played a key role in working to address the fiscal challenges facing our Nation. We put in place policies that helped grow our economy and improve the congressional budget process.

Now I need to make a clarification for anybody who might be listening. The Budget Committee is not the spending committee. That is the Appropriations Committee. The Budget Committee does a roadmap that is supposed to provide some discipline for the people doing the spending. That is where we need to do a lot more work.

I want to start off by telling you a little budget story. My youngest daughter and her family are strict budgeters. They follow Dave Ramsey's principles, and the whole family participates in monthly allocation of their resources. It has made a huge difference in their ability to pay off things and to enjoy life.

A year ago, my older daughter picked up my granddaughters from their after-school activities and said: How would you like to go to McDonald's for dinner? Of course, they were thrilled.

My daughter said: Well, maybe we ought to call your parents and see if they would like it too.

At this point the older daughter, who I think was 11 at the time, said: Who is paying?

And she said: I am.

She said: Oh, OK, because we have already used our eating-out budget.

That is family participation in budgeting.

As a result, I also have the youngest granddaughter, who saved up for an Apple watch. Do you know how much restraint of spending that is so you can reach the goal that you want and buy what you really need? That is good budgeting.

We can do good budgeting, but we have to have good appropriations to follow it up too.

The committee has had some real successes over the past 6 years.

We passed four budgets, including the first balanced 10-year blueprint approved by Congress since 2001.

We also played a key role in helping pass the most sweeping update of our Nation's tax system in more than 30 years. The passage of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act started with the approval of the FY 2018 Senate Budget Resolution. That resolution started the process to construct legislation that reduced tax rates for millions of Americans and modernized our antiquated Tax Code. It also supported responsible energy development that will keep energy affordable and provide a long-term supply for American energy.

Oversight was also a critical part of the committee's work. During my time as chairman, we worked to ensure the Federal Government was accountable to the public by boosting transparency, by improving Federal financial management, by identifying duplication of Federal programs, and by approving Federal information technology.

Increasing the transparency of our congressional budget process has also been a major priority. After becoming chairman, I restarted the practice of publicly releasing regular scorekeeping reports—which we publish on our committee website—that show how we spent the money. More recently, we developed information on the budgetary effects of the various COVID–19 bills. We can get those online.

Providing information like this on an ongoing basis is one more tool for committees and taxpayers alike to see how the current law stacks up against the budget we are required to adhere to. Scorekeeping reports operate just like regular checkups with the dentist or doctor to help identify risks and find solutions before more serious problems emerge.

In 2015, we also began regular public oversight hearings with the Congressional Budget Office. This was the first CBO oversight hearing in more than 30 years. Because of our efforts, CBO now regularly publicly releases information, tracking its forecasting records, the accuracy of estimates and projections, and the data it uses in its work.

While we have had some successes, there are still many serious challenges facing our Nation. Even before coronavirus came to our shores, our country was moving down an unsustainable fiscal path. The pandemic has only accelerated this, with Congress approving COVID relief legislation that would add more than $2.6 trillion to our debt so far. In the near-term this spending, necessary as it may have been, translated into an overall deficit of $3.1 trillion in fiscal year 2020, more than triple the amount recorded the previous fiscal year. CBO's most recent ''Long-Term Budget Outlook'' paints an even more dire picture of deficits and debt rising to unprecedented levels if current laws remain unchanged—and this represents the best-case scenario.

For decades, CBO, the Government Accountability Office, economists, and Members of Congress have been raising the alarm that if we continued on this course, our debt would explode with potentially devastating economic consequences, leaving us unable to fulfill the promises of the past. That day always seemed a long time away. But time waits for no one, and tomorrow is fast arriving.

By 2023, barely 2 years away, CBO projects that debt as a percentage of GDP will reach an all-time high of 107 percent. By 2050, debt could reach 195 percent of gross domestic product—which is the amount of actual production we do in the United States—and the annual deficit would reach 12.6 percent of GDP. That is where the tax money comes from.

Spending as a percent of GDP will rise 31.2 percent by 2050, primarily due to—this is very important—due to rising Social Security, healthcare costs, and net interest spending.

CBO projects that net interest spending will exceed all discretionary spending in 2043 and will exceed Social Security by 2046. By 2050, spending on interest will be larger than any single program. That is the interest on the debt. That doesn't pay down any debt. That is just the interest on the debt. By 2050, it will be the single largest program.

Now, that is assuming we continue with the extremely low interest rates that we get now. We are not even close to the national average. We are way below the national average. The national average would be 5 percent. If that were to happen, the only thing we would be able to fund would be interest on the national debt. You didn't hear me mention Social Security or Medicare or education or military or any of those things. That is why I have been mentioning this so often. Interest will eat us alive.

The amazing part of everything I just said is that this is the rosy scenario. Increases in spending or interest rates that are higher than the low rates assumed by CBO means that the outcomes are more severe than currently recorded. CBO expects rising deficits will have major negative economic consequences, including lower investment and output and a greater chance of a fiscal crisis. CBO notes that high and rising debt would also constrain policymakers' ability to borrow in response to future unforeseen emergencies, leaving the United States vulnerable in the face of potential disasters while also risking our national security.

CBO is the Congressional Budget Office, and it is a nonpartisan office that helps to make these evaluations. As I mentioned earlier, we are actually holding them accountable by having them come in and explain what they projected and how it matches up with what actually happens. So we should pay attention to them. I actually think that they come up with fairly low numbers.

I don't want to leave this body with nothing but doom and gloom. It is not too late to turn things around. We can be successful if we work together.

Contrary to what most people believe about Congress and what is reported in the media, I know both parties can work together. I have seen it firsthand as a member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee and my work with Senator Ted Kennedy and, again, here on the Senate Budget Committee and my work with Senators WHITEHOUSE, KAINE, WARNER, KING, VAN HOLLEN, and others.

Bipartisanship will be key as Congress works to tackle our fiscal challenges. Instilling the Federal budget process with regular action and predictability, active legislative oversight and spending transparency—that is all critical to strengthening our democracy and reducing our Nation's unsustainable spending and debt.

Since taking the helm of the Committee, we have held more than a dozen hearings on the topic of budget process reform, soliciting expert testimony from a variety of sources, including economists, academics, State and local leaders, former chairs of the Budget Committee, and even people from other countries. This has been one of my top priorities as chairman, and we have had some early successes in this effort.

This includes the committee's unanimous bipartisan approval of new budget rules that included budget process reforms, which have led to more orderly, meaningful, and transparent consideration of the budget resolutions in the committee. We followed those hearings by introducing and passing legislation, the Bipartisan Congressional Budget Reform Act, which represented the first bipartisan budget reform approved by the Senate Budget Committee since 1990.

I want to repeat that. In a bipartisan way, we passed a Congressional Budget Reform Act, and it represented the first bipartisan reforms approved by the Senate Budget Committee since 1990. A key focus of budget process reform is to make congressional budgets easier to pass and harder to ignore, while encouraging regular order in the normal funding process. If budgets are going to be a useful governing tool, they must matter. Budgets are the foundation by which we govern, the way we establish what matters most to our Nation, and where we agree limited resources should be focused.

We have seen time and again that when budgets are treated as an afterthought or as a wish list, our ability to legislate effectively and fulfill our most basic constitutional duties is made more difficult, if not impossible.

To restore budgets to their proper role, they must be enforceable, and they should increase fiscal accountability in Congress. If lawmakers approve a budget, they should stick to it. To that end, my bipartisan budget process reform legislation would make a number of important reforms, including creating a new enforcement tool that could be used only for reducing the deficit. I realize that we may not get this bill across the finish line before I complete my service, but I hope others will take up the effort and ensure the key parts, including fiscal accountability, are included in future reforms. I have had the assurance from both Members on this side of the aisle and the other side of the aisle that that is a possibility and a priority.

Next year, lawmakers will be confronted with the construction of a new budget and spending bills, and for the first time in almost a decade, it will be without spending caps. We have had some self-imposed limits on our spending before called spending caps, and it has been very irritating to people who want to spend money. But now they can do that because this will be the first time in almost a decade without the spending caps contained in the Budget Control Act.

Of course, even under the Budget Control Act, Congress regularly ignored the fiscal limits it contained, but starting next year, there will be no budget caps to guide overall funding levels or to curb Federal discretionary spending—no limits. This could be and should be a cause for great concern, but it is also a chance for us to work together to find a way to begin the process to address our fiscal challenges.

Of course, I mentioned that that is just curbing the Federal discretionary

spending. That is the little dab of money that the appropriators actually get to make a decision on, and 70 percent of what we do is already passed without a single vote from this body. And that number—we keep trying to shift discretionary things over to mandatory so people can be assured that the money will be spent, but seldom do we ever put any money with the new mandatory item.

But beyond the annual funding fight, our country faces an even more daunting fiscal crisis: the rapidly approaching depletion of several Federal trust funds. That includes the Highway Trust Fund next year. It also includes Medicare's Hospital Insurance Trust Fund. We have 4 years on that, 2024. There is the Disability Insurance Trust Fund, 2026, and the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund, 2031. Those are trust funds that are approaching depletion, running out of money.

OK. In the CBO's latest baseline, total scheduled spending for all pending trust fund programs will exceed their dedicated revenues by $12.3 trillion over the next 10 years. This accounts for the majority of the $13 trillion in cumulative deficits CBO projects the Nation will run over this period—depletion of the trust funds.

What happens when these trust funds run dry? Current law requires their spending to automatically be reduced to match their income. This means real cuts to crucial programs. I mentioned Social Security. It would have to go down to the amount of money that we actually receive going out to recipients of Social Security. That could be a big and immediate hurt.

So, again, a real challenge awaits next Congress as my tenure comes to a close. I am proud of what the Senate Budget Committee accomplished. We helped to improve the fiscal health of millions of Americans by passing the most comprehensive tax reform in a generation. We have also committed ourselves to working to improve the congressional budget process so Washington and Congress can get a better handle on what we are spending and where it is going, including a new tool that could be used only for reducing the deficit. We have worked to boost fiscal transparency, improve Federal financial management, identify duplication of Federal programs, and improve Federal information technology. But there is much more that needs to be done, and now those challenges will be passed to the next chairman.

While I have highlighted the problems, I am also leaving a roadmap with possible paths forward. I would ask all of my colleagues to work closely together to address these issues, as we can no longer push them off for someone else to fix later. We need to find the common ground. Tomorrow is here, and we have to start making those choices not only for ourselves but for our kids and our grandkids and our country.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CORONAVIRUS

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I rise today to remind all of my colleagues about the urgent, urgent need to pass coronavirus legislation. People need help, and they need it right now.

I am glad that bipartisan discussions are continuing. I think it is very positive, and I know that many of us are involved in those negotiations. I commend all of my colleagues who are working very hard to get this done.

It is critical that we come to an agreement that will help families and that will help businesses and communities get through this rough time, but time is running out, as we know. Our Nation is facing a crisis. Our States and local governments are facing a crisis as they are trying to gear up for an effective and rapid distribution of vaccines. Our local police officers, firefighters, public health workers, and other essential workers face layoffs.

The only real possibility that I see of defunding the police is the unwillingness, so far, by the majority leader to support funding local law enforcement in the COVID–19 emergency package that we are trying to get done. We all know that businesses and workers and families are facing a crisis.

We simply can't wrap up this session, we can't end this session and go home without responding to the urgent needs of the American people.

It has now been 1 week since the last time I was on the floor speaking about the need for more help. In the past week, more than 1 million additional people in the United States have become infected, and an additional 13,000 people in the United States have died because of COVID–19—13,000 moms and dads, grandpas and grandmas and friends and neighbors. We have now seen nearly 290,000 of our family members and friends and neighbors die of this horrible disease. That is like if the entire population of Grand Rapids and Flint, MI, simply disappeared.

Meanwhile, millions of families at risk of eviction are 1 week closer to finding themselves without a home in the winter in the middle of a health pandemic. Millions of small business owners have spent 1 more week scrambling to keep their workers on the payroll. Families don't have enough to eat, and they have spent 1 more week wondering where their next meal is going to come from for themselves and for their children.

A week is a long time to wait when you are in danger of being homeless or losing your job or being hungry or watching your child who is hungry. We are running out of time. We are running out of time, and so many American businesses, workers, and families are running out of time.

On December 26, only 16 days from now—16 days from now, the day after Christmas—vital unemployment programs will end, cutting off benefits that millions of workers need to provide for their families. Somebody who is self-employed, a contract worker, a gig worker, they will receive zero help after that to feed their families and put a roof over their head and pay the bills through this pandemic.

Five days after that, on December 31, the Federal Reserves' emergency lending program ends. That will cut off crucial credit that is keeping businesses open and helping State and local governments provide necessary services. Also on December 31, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's eviction moratorium ends, putting more people on the street. The Federal foreclosure moratorium and some opportunities for forbearance expire.

It is cold in Michigan right now, and it is going to get colder. Imagine how frightening it would be to know that your family is losing their home in the middle of a pandemic in the middle of the winter.

The truth is, our Nation is not facing just a health crisis; we are facing an economic crisis; we are facing a housing crisis; we are facing a hunger crisis all at the same time.

These expiring programs have been a lifeline for families, for communities, and for businesses during the pandemic. That lifeline is now fraying, and a lack of action here in Washington could cause it to completely snap.

There is a lot of talk about numbers right now, and numbers are important, but much more important are the people who need help. They are not numbers. I am thinking of a Michigan mom of two growing boys who has been waiting hours in a line of cars, week after week, to bring home a box of food. I am thinking of a Michigan dad who has been looking so hard for a new job, but nobody wants to be hiring right now, and his unemployment help is almost out. I am thinking of the owner of a Michigan business who had no choice but to lay off half of their workers right before the holidays. I am thinking of a Michigan retiree who is behind on her rent. She could move in with her daughter's family, but their home is already crowded, and she doesn't want to be a burden, and we are in the middle of a pandemic where we are telling people to socially distance to be safe.

While we are debating, people are suffering and panicking because they are not sure what they are going to do. People can't wait another week, and we cannot either.

This is the United States of America. It is not like we don't have the capacity to fix this right now. It is all about political will. It is about, do we get it? Do we care about people? Do we understand what is happening to people? And

are we willing to support the bipartisan effort going on right now that can do something—at least provide a bridge for a few months, through the winter months, into the new year?

There is an opportunity going on. There is a lot of hard work going on. There is no excuse not to take this moment and to come together and provide help in what is a COVID survival package for people in Michigan and across the country. That is what this is.

We are at a moment where it is up to us to make sure that we get this done, and if not, we should not end this session until we do.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING JOE MORGAN

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, Arkansas is known as the Natural State, and few have been more dedicated to preserving Arkansas in all of its natural beauty than was Joe Morgan.

Joe passed away last month at the age of 76. Joe was a lifelong Arkansan. He studied at Little Rock University—now the University of Arkansas-Little Rock—and he worked for many years as a car dealer for great American companies like General Motors and Chevrolet. He also served on the Arkansas Motor Vehicle Commission.

But Joe will probably be remembered most for his tireless advocacy on behalf of Arkansas' natural heritage and environment. Governor Hutchinson appointed Joe to the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, where he quickly established himself as a champion for Arkansas duck hunters and the wilderness upon which they rely.

Joe hunted and fished in Stuttgart, the duck capital of the world. As a member of the commission, he made it his mission to ensure duck hunting remained a gentleman's sport and to preserve the hunting grounds he knew and loved so they would be available to future generations of Arkansans.

He was especially passionate about preserving Bayou Meto Waterfowl Management Area, one of the crown jewels of duck hunting in Arkansas.

He was instrumental in implementing safe boating regulations to protect hunters and waterfowl populations alike. He imposed time limits on when boats could be out on the water to preserve the health and sustainability of the duck population.

Joe's first priority was always to his fellow Arkansans. He pressed for limits on when nonresidents could hunt to ensure that locals were never pushed out of the hunting spots they grew up with.

Joe's fellow commissioners will remember him as a dogged defender of hunting and fishing in Arkansas. His wife of 56 years, Judy, and his son, Brett, will remember him as a loving husband and father who was always ready with a joke—and always ready for a good shoot, a round of golf, or even a jaunt in his trusty Cessna 182.

As for me, I will remember Joe as a friend. I met Joe in my early campaigns, and we became fast friends. We talked and texted often. He even hosted me, with friends, in North Carolina to speak about Republican politics.

Joe Morgan may have left us, but he left his heart in Arkansas—in the well-stocked, flooded timber of Bayou Meto, which he helped to preserve.

In a fitting tribute to his legacy, Joe passed away on the opening day for duck hunting in Arkansas. Every hunter who enjoys Arkansas' natural beauty this season and every season in the future can thank Joe for the experience.

May he rest in peace.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BRAUN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 1877

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I come to the floor today, 71 days in the fiscal year, 71 days into a continuing resolution. It is unfortunate. I am placing no blame.

It is unfortunate we have not considered on the floor of the U.S. Senate—not 1 of the 12 regular order appropriations bills. The appropriations process is completely broken. Quite honestly, it has been broken since I arrived here in the Senate in 2011.

I ran for the U.S. Senate primarily because I was concerned about the fact that we were mortgaging our children's future. Back then, we were $14 trillion in debt, and that was extremely concerning to me. Now, 10 years later, 71 days into the 2021 fiscal year, we are $27.4 trillion into debt. That is an increase of $13.4 trillion. It is almost double since I have been here in just 10 years.

Again, the appropriations process is so broken. During that timeframe, we had to pass 36 continuing resolutions. The debt limit has no power in terms of controlling our out-of-control spending. We either raised or suspended the debt limit nine times.

Unfortunately, during that time, that 10 years, we have also—because of the broken process here—we have shut down the government three times, costing our economy, costing our government billions of dollars, and hurting real people.

I come from the State of Wisconsin, where, if the legislature can't get its act together and we don't pass appropriations bills and we are at an impasse, we don't shut down the government. We don't even shut down a particular agency. What we do is we do something that is pretty practical, the type of commonsense legislation that Wisconsinites would embrace. We just appropriate. We just fund the agencies or the entire State government at the previous year's level.

Doesn't that make sense? I think it makes all the sense in the world.

Again, here we are, 71 days into the fiscal year, and we haven't passed an appropriations bill. We have to pass, within the next 24 hours or so, our 37th continuing resolution to kick the can another week so we can get our act together and pass some kind of massive omnibus that nobody is going to be able to read before they actually vote for it. It is a completely broken process.

I recognize that as chairman of Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, a certain part of this government shutdown—this broken process—some of these elements weren't in my committee's jurisdiction. We had a number of pieces of legislation; one by Senator PORTMAN; one by Senator PAUL; one by Senator LANKFORD, who had been working on a similar piece of legislation from being in the House, to end government shutdowns forever.

As chairman of the committee, I had to take a look at these pieces of legislation and decide which one did I want to bring up to my committee, pass out of my committee, and bring to the floor of the Senate.

I chose Senator LANKFORD's because he had done a lot of hard work with Senator MAGGIE HASSAN on a bipartisan bill. Again, it is very simple. It didn't automatically increase spending, didn't automatically decrease spending. It did exactly what we do in Wisconsin.

If we don't get our act together, and we don't pass any appropriations bills or a single or two appropriations bills, we don't shut down the government. We don't shut down that agency. We just appropriate enough funds at last year's level, and we continue until we actually do pass an appropriations bill.

I know the members of the Appropriations Committee and have all the respect in the world for the chairman and the ranking member. I know they don't like CRs, but, again, this will be our 37th CR since I have been here for 10 years. It is broken.

But just in case they are concerned about these CRs, what I can give you is Wisconsin's history in this. Since we passed this commonsense reform, really, the longest CR we ever had in Wisconsin since we had this anti-government shutdown process was just 4 months in 1971. That is a long time ago, and it was only 4 months. We are approaching 4 months now.

Again, this is the 37th CR since I took office. We passed out of my committee—there were only two dissenting votes, two ''no'' votes. Those came

from two Senators who just had an alternate version of the End Government Shutdowns Act. We passed this out of my committee 12 to 2.

We have been working now for the last year trying to find some vehicle to add it on as an amendment to end this insanity.

We thought that with the group of us here, this would be a good time. It is a very simple bill. Again, if you don't pass an appropriations bill or all the appropriation bills, you just fund, you appropriate at last year's level. But we have a few little disciplines to force the Senators in Congress to do their job.

The first discipline is, we don't allow any Federal or campaign moneys to be spent on travel, which, basically, forces Members of Congress to stay here until we do get our act together, until we do pass appropriations bills and fund government that is necessary.

The other thing we do is we only allow Congress, each Chamber, to only bring up appropriations bills in their Chamber. There is an exception, of course, for any bill that would have to do with an immediate national security emergency. That is pretty much it.

In committee, Senator SCOTT had an amendment, which I will turn to him to have him describe the final discipline to force Members of Congress to do their jobs: pass appropriations bills and fund government without shutting the government down.

Senator SCOTT.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. JOHNSON). The Senator from Florida.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. First, I want to thank the chairman for his effort to try to figure out how we can stop shutting down the government.

When I came up here with Senator BRAUN 2 years ago, we were in a government shutdown, and nobody wins. It doesn't work for any part of government when government gets shut down. I know, talking to the appropriations chair and ranking member, that they are also focused on making sure of what we can do to make sure we pass budgets, pass our spending bills, and not shut down the government.

I want to fight the way Washington has been working. I want to make sure it works for all Florida families, not just career politicians.

I have a background in business like Chairman JOHNSON does. In the real world, if you don't do your job, you don't get paid. It is really simple. If Congress can't accomplish its most basic task—which I believe is passing a budget, appropriations bills, in an orderly fashion—then why should we get paychecks? I think it is pretty simple.

When you listen to what Chairman JOHNSON just said; that the current system in Washington is clearly broken, there is no—a lot of people care about this, but there is no one, ultimately, who has responsibility and there are no consequences and it costs our system a lot of money. Congress doesn't pass a budget. Instead, they just pass temporary measures, and it kicks the can down the road.

The thing that has been surprising to me since I got up here is how little of the budget we actually review every year. It is surprising to me that about 70 percent of the budget we don't even look at every year. I think all these things are unacceptable. Congress can't continue to just get away with not doing its basic job and creating a burden.

We have to do something different. That is why I am proud to join my colleagues today to pass the Prevent Government Shutdowns Act, which includes my no budget, no pay proposal.

Withholding paychecks from Members of Congress who fail to pass a budget will help prevent government shutdowns, which hurt the economy, hurt millions of people.

It is also an important step to promote fiscal responsibility in the face of what Senator JOHNSON said: $27.4 trillion worth of debt. I believe we need to pass the No Budget, No Pay Act now to show we are serious about getting this spending under control and we are serious about the future of this Nation.

Members of Congress make significantly more than the average American makes. We make $174,000 a year, and we are asking them to do the most basic function: pass a budget. It is not complicated. I think every Member of Congress—rich or poor—can agree Congress should pass a budget every year. There is absolutely no reason we can't. Anyone who disagrees should not have this job.

Let's go back. When the American people don't do their job, there are consequences. It is time we make Washington work a little bit like what the real world looks like. Let's pass the Prevent Government Shutdowns Act and get the No Budget, No Pay Act done.

I refer to my colleague from Indiana.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. BRAUN. Mr. President, Rick mentioned that back in 2018, we ran on what we are talking about today. We wouldn't be honest to the people who elected us to come here.

I had eight pages of prepared remarks. This is something I have talked about so often. I am going to cover some new terrain to make it relatable to the citizens across this country about how this place works and how it is so different from how anything else works.

A few of us come from the world of accountability—the business world—where you don't have the luxury of doing what we do here in the Federal Government. Listen to this closely because this is what most citizens don't understand. We are given the revenues here in this place, and our only job, No. 1, should be not to spend more than what we are given. We don't do that.

We borrow 23 percent, roughly, of what we spend. Try taking that to your banker, running a business, see if you can get a loan doing that. That is just a real simple way to look at how we do this year after year.

On Main Street, whether you are running a business, whether it is your household—I served in State government for 3 years. We were smart enough to have a balanced budget amendment. We believed in things like a rainy day fund. It was in our DNA. We didn't have to think about it; that in the long run, you are not going to succeed if you spend more than what you take in.

Coming out of World War II was the highest level of national debt we ever had—roughly, where we are now. That generation, we know what they went through. They were savers. They were investors and not only in government. We are now spenders and consumers.

You would think that in the biggest business in the world—we spend about $4.5 trillion a year. We take in maybe about $3.5. Of course, in a year like this, where you had a pandemic, add another $3 trillion or so to the national debt. And structurally, we will be marching, over the next 5 to 7 years, to where that goes to $1.5 trillion a year. Start adding all that up.

Here is what is going to happen. When we are in a position like we are now, where you can borrow money for nearly nothing—we are the only reserve currency in the world that allows us to do it—that doesn't mean you should do it because we are piling up obligations on our kids and our grandkids, and we might as well admit it. How have we evolved to get to where we are now? I don't think that is as much an issue as we know where we are now. It is not sustainable.

Here is what is going to happen to the most important programs we have and that everybody likes: Social Security, Medicare. Medicare has been around since the mid-1960s. All of us have been paying into it, employers and employees. Every penny will be exhausted out of the trust fund, and that was about 5 to 5½ years. Now it has advanced, due to our current financial situation, to maybe 4 or 5. What happens? This will be the first reality, the shock that comes to the American public—especially elderly who depend on Medicare for their healthcare—18 percent across-the-board cuts. Think of the static and the uproar we will hear then.

We can stop it if we just have a little discipline. That is mostly about embracing something like I put forward, the Fair Care Act, which is the most comprehensive, aggressive with healthcare costs in this country.

As a CEO from Main Street, and CEOs across the country, small business owners, the biggest problem we deal with is the high cost of healthcare. Of course, we here protect a healthcare industry that is broken. And you have another side that wants to get more government involved. And, really, all it takes there is to have

transparency and competition—have a consumer who is engaged in his or her own well-being, and you would have prices cascade down.

Those are tough decisions. You take on three of the four biggest lobbies in the country—pharma, hospitals, and insurance. That is another thing that doesn't make this place work. With Social Security, we have some time there, but that was crafted back when life spans were a lot shorter than what they are now. We knew that actuarially, and it has been coming at us for years. We have until, maybe, 2032 or 2033. We have been paying into that since the Great Depression, but every penny out of the trust fund will be gone. I think you get the picture.

When I came here—as did Senator JOHNSON from Wisconsin, Senator SCOTT from Florida, and a few fiscal conservatives, like Senator LEE and a few others who will weigh in on this—I talked about what was uncomfortable. Well, to me, we have had all of this time, and we have not done anything about it. We have the perfect opportunity. We know we are in this current dynamic, and we know we will have to get through it, but what we are here to do today is to get a vote on a simple bill that says, do not shut the government down when we are trying to get through these issues.

Put a little bit of rigor and discipline into the process with the No Budget, No Pay Act, and then, maybe, we can get to the point at which we give the American public a better product. Imagine if everything were given to you in terms of your revenues. First of all, don't spend more than what you take in. When you have a year to do something, start on day one. That is the way it works in the real world, and that is the way it works in a household. That is the way it worked on a school board on which I served for 10 years, and that is the way it works in a place like Indiana, which balances its budget every year, has a rainy day fund, and lives responsibly.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCOTT of Florida). The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, article I, section 9, clause 7 of the Constitution makes clear that no money will be drawn from the Treasury except by an appropriation passed by Congress. Article I, section 7 of the Constitution likewise makes clear that you can't pass an appropriation or any other form of legislation without the same document, the same bill, the same proposal passing the House of Representatives and passing the Senate and then being submitted to the President for signature, veto, or acquiescence.

Over time, particularly in the last decade, it has become increasingly common for Congress to recognize the cumbersome nature of that process, which is cumbersome by design. It is sometimes easier to just circumvent the process, technically complying with its commands but doing so in a way that doesn't really invite or even allow for individual Members or their constituents to know what they are voting for when they vote on a spending bill. This is what we have come to refer to as governing by cliff in the spending context, and it has, sadly, become the status quo in Washington. It often provides Members with a simple binary choice when they are facing a spending bill.

When you come up against a spending cliff, it means a deadline, almost always one arbitrarily imposed by the previous spending bill. It is when you come up close to that and there is no spending bill on the floor until, maybe, a day or two or sometimes an hour or two or sometimes more like a minute or two. It is something that has been negotiated behind closed doors by only a small handful of Members of Congress, excluding everyone else in the House, everyone else in the Senate, and the hundreds of millions of people they collectively represent.

Sometimes that kind of legislation is brought forward—not just sometimes. Basically, it is every time. As my friend and colleague the Senator from Wisconsin noted a minute ago, I think this will mark the 37th consecutive time that Congress has passed something like this or it is, at least, the 37th time that Congress has passed something like this since Senator JOHNSON and I came to the Senate and were sworn into office in 2011.

The problem with this is that Members can't reasonably know what they are voting on in advance, and then they are given the simple binary choice to take it or leave it. You won't have any opportunity to amend it. You really won't even have the opportunity to read it or understand it, much less communicate its contents to your constituents, who will have to pay for it. You can vote for that in its entirety or you can vote against it, but if you vote against it and it doesn't pass, you will be blamed singlehandedly for shutting down the government regardless of whether you would have preferred to have brought up and, in fact, had tried for a long period of time to bring up spending bills prior to that last possible moment. This puts the American people and their elected lawmakers in the House and the Senate in an untenable position, one that I would analogize to a circumstance of an individual who lives in an outlying area.

Let's suppose that you move to an outlying area, one that is distant from any other town. Let's suppose that, on your first day of work after moving to that town, you are about to leave home, and you speak to your significant other on the phone, who informs you: Bring home bread, milk, and eggs when you stop by the store. Make sure you get those on your way home. Don't come home without them.

So you go to this grocery store in this outlying area that is distant from any other town. It is the only store in town. It is the only store, in fact, for hours in any direction. You go to the store, and you get your cart. You put in your bread. You get the milk, and you put in the eggs. Then you get to the checkout counter.

The checkout person says: OK. This is how much the eggs cost, the bread, and the milk, but there is a problem.

What is the problem?

Well, you can't buy just these items.

Why can't I buy just these items?

I am not going to let you buy the bread or the milk or the eggs unless you also buy a half a ton of iron ore and a bucket of nails and a book about cowboy poetry. In fact, now that I think about it, you are going to have to buy one of every item in the store.

Nobody would want to live that way, and nobody would want to shop that way. Of course, that is never the way we would want to do business in our government; yet, in some ways, it kind of is because a small handful of people put together that shopping list, so to speak, and put it together in one bill. Those bills are often hundreds and, in some cases, thousands of pages long, and we usually have no more than a few hours to read them before they are passed into law.

That is where this legislation comes about. The End Government Shutdowns Act would force Congress to abandon this barbaric, binary form of appropriations. Perhaps more importantly, it would end the threat of the shutdown, which is very often the propellant, the fuel, for perpetuating this barbaric form of alienation—this barbaric form of the disenfranchisement of most of the people represented by most Democrats and most Republicans in the Senate and in the House of Representatives.

Look, I understand that none of this is easy, and I have nothing but profound respect and affection for my colleagues who are involved in writing these bills. That respect and affection should cut both ways, and it should mean that we have the opportunity to vote on spending bills before they hit us so that we are not left with this awful, untenable, binary choice between funding everything that a small handful of Members has foreordained or voting for nothing and being blamed for a shutdown.

We have to end the process of spending by cliff. This and only this, I believe, is something that could bring certainty to Americans and will allow for more time to bring these bills to the floor and will allow for the kind of transparency that the American people need, expect, and deserve but, for the last decade or two, have not received.

Mr. President, I yield my time back to my friend and colleague, Senator JOHNSON from Wisconsin.

Mr. JOHNSON. I yield time to Senator LEAHY.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I have found so much of what I have heard that I can agree with. I certainly agree that we ought to be able to pass our annual appropriations bills. I certainly

agree that we should prevent Federal Government shutdowns, which waste billions upon billions upon billions of dollars' worth of taxpayers' money, plus all of the burdens they put on American families, Federal employees, and so forth. But I am afraid that my good friends on the other side of the aisle are letting rhetoric get ahead of reality.

The reality is that the majority in the Senate controls the calendar in the Senate. All of these appropriations bills could have been brought up in June or July or September. We could have voted on them, piece by piece, up and down, and had amendments. Everybody would have had plenty of time to have read every line of them, to have amendments to strike things or add things they wanted. I mention this because it can be done. The House of Representatives, under Democratic control—I don't mean that to be partisan but to show the difference—they actually passed all of their appropriations bills and its COVID bill, the so-called Heroes Act, in May.

In the Appropriations Committee, we have been working very hard. Senator SHELBY's staff has, and mine has too. We have given up a lot of time with my colleagues—and for all good reasons. Many of us stayed here working on those appropriations bills, but we couldn't bring the bills up.

Now, the Republican leader, the majority leader, could have brought up any one of these bills at any time he had wanted. We could have done it, allowing a 1-hour time agreement for amendments. After all, the Republicans in the majority have nothing to fear about that. If they don't like an amendment, they can vote it down. This would give the Senator from Utah and everybody else a chance to read each one of these bills. If they don't like it, bring up an amendment to strike it. That could have been done; it was not.

One of the reasons it was not done was because we had to take up Senate time, day after day after day, to put through nominees—mostly backed by special interest groups—on the Federal bench and elsewhere. We had to vote on those. Why? We can vote on those, but also take the time to vote on these things. Bring up the appropriations bills, and vote on them one by one. Amend them if you want; vote them down if you want.

I say to my friends on the other side of the aisle, You have the majority. You can vote them all down or vote them all up. But what happens when you enact an automatic CR, which I would oppose, it means you don't work out the parts of full-year appropriations bills. There would be no incentive for Members to negotiate full-year appropriations bills. We were not elected to put the government on autopilot. We were elected to make careful choices.

I would argue the reason we are here is that people were afraid to actually stand up and vote up or down on appropriations bills earlier this year when they had the chance. It is easy to say: Golly gee, let's have an automatic continuing resolution. Sounds good. What it says is that we can take all of our weekends off. We can have the government fly us home. We can pay for all of these things, but we don't do our work.

What I am saying is we should have stayed here over a few weekends. I would say to my friends on the other side of the aisle, the Republican side, allow the bills to come up one by one and vote them up or down. If you don't like parts of it, vote to take it out. Vote it up or down. Again, you have the majority, if you don't like what is in there. Full-year appropriations bills give Congress the opportunity to address the needs of today rather than continue the priorities of the past.

I have been here long enough to know that things that looked great 2 or 3 years ago are not the priorities today because things change. Certainly, under COVID, we have seen, in many ways, a 15-year change in society, education, business, industries, and more in 15 weeks.

So each year in the annual appropriations bills, Congress adjusts spending levels to deal with emerging issues facing the American people. We can eliminate funding for projects that have been completed or no longer needed. We can direct funding to higher priority programs. It is detailed, exacting work. It is nice to talk in slogans and generalities, but I invite those Senators to sit down and go through, day by day, the kind of work the Senators and the superb staff, both Republican and Democratic, do in putting together this legislation. It is detailed, exacting work, but it is what the American people expect. That is what we all thought was a smart decision about how to invest their hard-earned tax dollars.

If you operate under an automatic CR, none of these adjustments can be made. Automatic CRs lock in the status quo, and we can say: Bye-bye. We are heading home for the holidays. Oh, an emergency in COVID came up? Well, it is not in the automatic CR, so tough. We didn't have time to do anything about it. Oh, there is flooding in Florida or Nebraska or fires in the West or anything else. Well, the automatic CR didn't cover it because we didn't have money for it a year before.

No, that is not the way to do it. The Congress and the White House have a responsibility to work together to enact funding bills to keep the government open. Automatic CRs might save face and time and allow us to do other things that we might like to do back home, but in doing so, they relieve us of our obligations to the Constitution and to the American taxpayer. We shouldn't be relieved of these obligations.

I know the last time we had a government shutdown, it was over a bill where the President felt that it didn't give him enough for a wall along the border between the United States and Mexico, a wall that is being built at great expense and accomplishing very little. That is why it was stopped.

So for a month and a half, we sat there, parts of the government closed down, our States, our people, our Federal Government losing billions upon billions upon billions of dollars. You know how that finally got reopened? We started off a series of meetings on a Monday. The House was in session; the Senate was in session. It was a good time to begin. We began in Senator SHELBY's office, and we continued it in my office here in the Capitol.

We had two the chair and ranking member of the House Appropriations Committee. We had two Senators: my good friend—and he is a good and close friend—DICK SHELBY, the chairman of the Appropriations Committee, and myself as the vice chairman. And the four of us sat there for 3 or 4 hours. We talked about everything from photography to travel and then went in line by line of the bills, and we came to an agreement. And we were able to explain our agreement to the House and the Senate, and it was voted through, and the government reopened.

Incidentally, the President praised it. He said that he had gone through it, and it was so good. And I thank him for doing that because it gave him a lot less money for the wall than the bill that he vetoed had given him.

But the government reopened.

I mention this because it seems that those billions of dollars were spent more as a political stunt than something that benefits hard-earned taxpayer dollars.

So instead of rhetoric that ignores reality, let's get to the reality. Let's pledge—whoever is in the majority in the end—we will bring up each of the appropriations bills, vote them up or down or amend them. We could have done this in June or July. If we had done that, we wouldn't be where we are now. It was a missed opportunity.

If we say let's have an automatic CR no matter what happens, whether we have earthquakes, floods, fires, COVID, attacks on the United States, anything else, we can just sit back and relax, not have to do all of the weekends and holidays and late-night work that many of us in both parties do on appropriations because we have got an automatic CR.

When I came to the Senate, both the Republican and Democratic leaders told me—and I was the most junior Member of the Senate at the time—that we should be the conscience of the Nation. It meant doing your work.

I never expected to be the dean of the Senate, but I have seen both Republicans and Democrats do that work. At times, it has been into late Friday night or early Saturday morning, but we have done it and passed it.

Where did those days go? Where did those days go?

So when Senator SHELBY became chair and I became vice chair, we passed a series of appropriations bills.

And I think we got 80, 90, 95, and sometimes 100 Senators to vote for those bills. We usually can't get a vote with that many to say the Sun rises in the East. The majority gave us time to bring those votes up, debate them, and vote them up or down.

I will have more comments to make. I don't question the good intentions of any Senator here, but what I am saying is, we could have done this in June; we could have done it in July; we could have done it in August; we could have done it in September; we could have done it in November. And to now complain—well, up to the last few days, we have got to change everything. Instead, let's pledge that we will follow regular order in the coming days.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BRAUN). The Senator from Wisconsin.

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I appreciate the comments of the Senator from Vermont.

I think what Senator LEE and I were talking about is, you know, as opposed to the way it used to be, when we got here in 2011, the appropriations process was completely broken, and it is still broken. And it has been a bipartisan failure.

I arrived in 2011 under Democratic leadership. Now we are in a Republican leadership. It is broken.

The good news is the Preventing Government Shutdown Act is a bipartisan solution. It passed 12-to-2 out of my committee. It is cosponsored, largely, by Senator LANKFORD and Senator HASSAN.

The concerns that the Senator from Vermont expressed about an automatic CR and passage of this bill is addressed in the bill. The bill has the disciplines to force us to only work on appropriations bills. We can leave town but not on the Federal dime, not on campaign money. We will have to pay for that ourselves.

And I don't know what we are going to pay for it with because we are not going to get paid until we actually pass the appropriations bill. So the discipline is already set in here. That is what is so beautiful about this bill, what is so elegant about it.

As I said, in Wisconsin, once they enforced this discipline, the most we have ever had is a 4-month CR. We are 71 days into this CR, and we are going to pass it for another week.

This process is broken. The Preventing Government Shutdown Act is a solution that will force us back to the good old days, where we bring up the appropriations bills, because my guess is that not many Members of Congress aren't going to want to not get paid and not be able to go back to their district.

So it will focus our minds. We will only be able to work on appropriations bills, other than in a national emergency. We will get the job done. That is what happened in Wisconsin. This is a solution.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 304, S. 1877. I ask that the committee-reported substitute amendment be withdrawn, the Braun substitute amendment at the desk be considered agreed to, and the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed, and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SHELBY. Reserving the right to object.

My colleagues, I believe here today, are promoting legislation that they claim will spur Congress to pass appropriations bills in the event of a government shutdown—in other words, to avoid it.

I think they have a good idea, but would that do the job? I doubt it, but this debate will go on, and it should because I agree with the frustration that so many of you have, including the Presiding Officer here. We are having to part with it.

My colleague from Vermont, Senator LEAHY, and I, for 2 straight years, with cooperation—bipartisanship—were able basically to pass these appropriations bills, most of them, for the first time in years. This has slowed down this year, absolutely. I know it is a big Presidential race and everybody running this year and that throws it into it.

But we would like to pass these bills before October 1, just as you would. But I don't believe this legislation would do what you think it would do, and I think it deserves further inquiry and scrutiny.

I believe it would exacerbate, in some ways, the problem that we are trying to resolve here. We are right now close to closing out, hopefully, all of our appropriations bills. We call it an omnibus. I agree with their frustration. We should, as a body, both parties, every Member of the Senate, should have had the priority, No. 1, to do this before October 1 each year, as we used to do it.

So unless this legislation somehow prohibits political partisanship, I don't believe it will increase the probability that we get our work done, shutdown or not.

I think the key is to work together. Senator LEAHY and I have demonstrated that in a few years, but we need all of us to come together on this and place the rules first, place the government—don't shut down.

I stand before you every day. The worst thing we can do is shut down the government. The specter of a shutdown is bad in itself, which we face right today.

So I believe the most important incentive right now for us to do is try to work together. If we can't, we are going to have to do something. It might be something like what you are talking about, but I think it deserves further debate, further inquiry.

And there is a political downside to all this, I know. But if we work together, we will get these bills passed. Nobody is more acutely aware of that than my colleague from Vermont, who has been on the Appropriations Committee for many years, before I was even there. But the American people, as someone said here today, elected us to do our job. They are absolutely right—we should do our job and do it promptly, and we can if we work together.

Having said that, I know this issue is not going away unless we do our job like we should, but I object to the unanimous consent request at this point.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Wisconsin.

Mr. JOHNSON. I appreciate the words from the Senators from Vermont and Alabama. I would like to work with you, and I think all of us would like to work with you on a solution to this problem. So I appreciate those words, and I look forward to working with you in the future on this.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I have profound respect and admiration for both the Senator from Alabama and the Senator from Vermont. As you can tell from their remarks, they are congenial, collegial, and delightful people. They also have many decades of legislative experience between the two of them, and the country has been blessed by their gifts, their talents, and their willingness to work hard.

I want to respond to a couple of points made a moment ago, one suggesting, perhaps, that the answer to all of this is simply a desire to work together, as if that were somehow not what we have in mind.

We were also told a moment ago that they are almost finished with the appropriations process, that it is almost complete. Now, if that is the case, then I would ask the question, why haven't we been permitted to see it? Why haven't the other Members of the U.S. Senate been able to see that? It is a little bit hard for some of us to hear that if we all work together, we can get this done, when that is literally all we are asking.

I don't think any one of us supporting Senator JOHNSON's legislation is here saying that it is perfect or here saying that it would magically solve every problem in the world or even every problem in the U.S. Senate having to do with the spending process. We are not saying that. But what we are saying is that without it, we will stay stuck in the same closed-loop system.

So to suggest that there is somehow a lack of desire on our part or on the part of anyone who is not an appropriator or anyone who is not the chairman and ranking member of the Appropriations Committee, that this is somehow a product of a lack of desire and willingness to work together, that is not fair. That is not accurate. That is quite

the opposite of the truth. What we are asking for is a seat at the table.

Article V of the Constitution outlines the procedure for amending the Constitution, for making changes to the structure of government that we have, what it may and may not do. Article VI of the Constitution preemptively disposes of any proposed constitutional amendment that would alter the principle of equal representation in the Senate. It is the one rule that cannot be changed. It is so fundamental to our system of government, to this system of government that has helped foster the development of the greatest civilization the world has ever known, that in this Chamber, every State has to be represented equally. That doesn't happen and, indeed, it can't happen when you have some of the most significant measures that will ever come before this body commandeered by one committee, the Committee on Appropriations.

Now, granted, as has been suggested in the last couple of speeches we have heard, we have some great talent among our members on the Appropriations Committee. We have great talent among the staffers on the Appropriations Committee. They work really hard. They are really smart. They are really determined, and they are highly specialized. That isn't the problem. The problem is that in most circumstances, because of the way we bring things up, most of us are completely disenfranchised from the process.

This doesn't mean that it is the fault of the Appropriations Committee. I don't believe that it is. It is, instead, a fault of the way in which we schedule votes and the fact that these things aren't brought up until the last possible minute, and then we are given this awful choice of, vote for a whole bunch of things that you don't necessarily support and can't even completely know about or vote against it and be blamed for a government shutdown.

That is all this bill is trying to do, is to get us out of that toxic loop—a loop that is the opposite of collegial, the opposite of respectful, and that is utterly incompatible with the principle of equal representation in the Senate—a principle that cannot be undone even by a constitutional amendment.

Mr. LEAHY. Will the Senator yield for a question?

Mr. LEE. Yes, I will.

Mr. LEAHY. Should we be able to represent our constituents? Of course. He and I agree, and he and I have agreed on a lot of different things, especially constitutional issues, in this body. And I share his concern of suddenly being handed a piece of legislation like this, and we are going to vote on it in 10 minutes or an hour or so.

Would he agree with me that if the leader said that Tuesday of next week—say this was done earlier in the year—Tuesday of next week, we will bring up this part of the appropriations bill from the committee, the committee having voted on it, Republicans and Democrats—I think it is close to a third of the U.S. Senate that is on that committee—having voted on it, and it will be open to amendments. Then after we finish that one, we will bring up the next one.

Would that cover many of the problems that the Senator from Utah has?

Mr. LEE. In response to the question, the answer is yes. Absolutely yes. That is exactly what we want. That is exactly what we deserve. And this is one of many manifestations of the fact that my friend, my distinguished colleague, the senior Senator from Vermont, has the benefit of many decades of experience in this body. He has been here at times when the Senate has functioned precisely like that, as it should. That is exactly what we want. That is how the Senate is supposed to function, and that is how it has functioned for most of the existence of our great Republic.

So that in and of itself would not only help address the problem, it would be the solution to the problem. That is why I insist this is not a problem that can be fairly laid at the feet of the individual members of the Appropriations Committee or even necessarily the chairman and ranking member of the Appropriations Committee. It is a problem with the way we schedule votes, and it is also a problem related to the first, with a lack of willingness to allow amendments to be brought.

The filibuster is itself maligned and often misunderstood, but the purpose of a filibuster from the very origins of this institution was to allow for theoretically unlimited debate, discussion, and opportunities for amendments to legislation. Nowhere would that be more important than in the case of where we are spending the public's money. That is what we are supposed to be doing. That is how it always did work in the past. The very reason why we have the filibuster rule to begin with is to allow for, to facilitate, to encourage unlimited debate, discussion, and amendments.

So, yes, I wish this legislation weren't necessary, but it is with precisely that objective in mind that we push this legislation. Why? Well, some of us have been here for many years, and in the case of Senator JOHNSON and myself, we have been here now for a decade. We have hoped for that exact type of scenario that Senator LEAHY just described to come about, and I don't doubt Senator LEAHY's sincerity one bit in raising that point. That is exactly what we need.

The incentives aren't there. The incentives on the part of those making these decisions to bring these things up with too little time for debate, amendment, or even reading the bill and discussing it with our constituents—those making that decision have forestalled the kind of debate and discussion that needs to occur. The incentive structure is such that those making that very decision are not going to want to relinquish that immense power, particularly if they can be a part of and even control what goes into that bill, who knows about it when, and then virtually guarantee passage on the Senate floor.

Something has to change in order to alter that incentive structure to bring about exactly the kind of dynamic Senator LEAHY has described. Look, we can do this. It is not that hard. But we are going to have to adopt some changes to our procedures, and ultimately we owe it to our constituents not to bend unflinchingly and reflexively every single time somebody brings forward a spending bill at the very last minute.

I remember one of many moments in which this has occurred arose in March of 2018. We had been anticipating for many months a spending bill. We had a lot of conversations among and between Members about the need to debate, discuss, and amend spending legislation before it was brought to the floor. We had been assured that we would have more of an opportunity than we had in previous Congresses.

Then one Wednesday evening in March of 2018, we received an email. The email arrived at I believe about 8:30 or 8:45 in the evening. It told us that attached is a copy of a spending bill. We will be voting on this sometime in the Senate. We weren't told when. I opened the attachment. The attachment contained a 2,232-page spending bill spending well over $1 trillion.

We immediately started reviewing that. I divided up that legislation by section among my staff and then spent the entire night and the entire following day reviewing that legislation. We got a basic understanding of what it did but only rudimentary. A 2,232-page omnibus spending bill does not exactly read like a fast-paced novel.

To my great astonishment, before we were even finished reading that bill, much less before we had the opportunity to even conceive of or draft amendments, much less propose them, the House of Representatives passed that bill without amendment before lunch the next day. The Senate passed the same legislation about 12 or 13 hours later.

This process has repeated itself over and over again. We can't fool ourselves into believing that it is going to change without some alteration to procedure and to the set of incentives that perpetuate that vicious cycle—one that is no respecter of persons, no respecter of Republicans versus Democrats, liberals versus conservatives, or even Senators versus Representatives. It is just a fundamentally anti-American and undemocratic way of doing things. We can do better, and we must.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

FOREIGN POLICY

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I want to talk today for a few minutes about something that I don't think has gotten the attention it deserves, and that is the many successes in foreign policy over the last 4 years.

I think at the top of my list of foreign policy successes in terms of unanticipated accomplishments that we would not have thought would happen would be the Abraham accords that were signed at the White House in September. This agreement paves the way for normalized relations between Israel and the United Arab Emirates and Israel and Bahrain and I believe really establishes a way where the rest of the Middle East could hopefully follow this step in the right direction. I think not only is this one of the most significant moves in decades to promote peace and understanding in the Middle East, but, frankly, it probably wouldn't have happened if we hadn't had a President who hadn't spent years hearing how something like this was impossible. The President believed it was possible, and it was because of his strong leadership that the countries involved made it a priority to bridge the gap that everyone thought was unbridgeable, that really had separated these neighbors for generations.

What we see when we look at this and other events in recent times is that when our friends become friends with each other, we win. The United States wins when our friends also become friends with each other.

This agreement can be a model for future progress in the region. It is the first time in four decades that any Arab country has recognized Israel, and you can see it is already making a difference. We had debate on the floor yesterday about our continued partnership—our defense partnership—with the United Arab Emirates, and this was, obviously, an element in that debate. That partnership, over three different administrations, produced something that nobody would have anticipated in any of the earlier decades.

The President started his Middle East efforts by acknowledging Jerusalem as the capital of Israel in his first year in office. A few months later, he moved the U.S. Embassy there. Now, was this a new idea? Absolutely not a new idea. American Presidents have been saying for years that this was a good idea. Party platforms have said for years that Israel should be able to have their capital in Jerusalem acknowledged, but nobody had done it before. Congress had said repeatedly this should happen, but it hadn't happened and didn't happen until the Trump administration decided to make it happen.

Critics actually said that moving our embassy would hurt our credibility in the region, and, 3 years later, the Abraham accords proved that that was 100 percent wrong.

Another reason American credibility has soared in the Middle East is that President Trump took a strong stance against Iran. He did that by dealing with the nuclear agreement that President Obama and the Obama administration had struck with Iran as a bad idea. It was an idea that actually allowed Iran to eventually get a nuclear weapon and reduced sanctions on the country's leaders as they continued to sponsor terrorism around the world. In fact, he even returned substantial amounts of money that we now know went, in large part, into terror-building network efforts.

The agreement was badly handled from the start. It didn't work after we entered into it. We didn't enter into it in any kind of binding way because it was clear, at the time, that if this agreement would have been presented as a treaty, it had no chance of being approved by the Senate.

So it was entered into, thinking: This is such a great idea that the next President will just have to do it, whether the country is bound to it or not.

The hard work of doing our work the right way makes a difference, and, in fact, that agreement would have been changed before a Senate would have considered ever approving it. But it would have been either approved or not approved rather than the process we went through, which was a lot of Senate opposition but no response to that opposition.

President Trump put a spotlight on the deal's failure to protect our national security. He took a strong new approach to applying maximum pressure on the Iranian regime, and it has had impact. Eventually, that new view led to eliminating Qasem Soleimani, who was clearly the architect of Iran's terrorist activities and the attacks on Americans. There has been no doubt about that for a long time. Iran was the No. 1 state sponsor of terrorism. General Soleimani was the No. 1 architect of that state sponsorship of terrorism, and the President was willing to do what needed to be done there. The world is a safer place with him gone. Iran knows that we will not turn a blind eye on aggression or on false promises or, often, even on things being said that, on the face of them, are clearly not true and the world community is expected to agree with them, and, frankly, in the case of Iran, often decides that the best course is to agree to the things that you know are not true which are presented as if they are true and accepted as if they are true. This doesn't get you where you want. Accommodating or rewarding our enemies doesn't advance peace in the Middle East or anywhere else. Supporting our allies and building stronger alliances and holding terrorists accountable does.

Stronger alliances are also a goal of the Trump administration's new focus on the Indo-Pacific region. The President recognized that China is the greatest threat to democracy and freedom in the world. He understands that America cannot counter that threat alone, and because of that, has reached out in meaningful ways. While other administrations have said they would pivot to the Pacific, the Trump administration actually oversaw a period of renewed engagement in the area and renewed branding of the area that indicated that the Indo-Pacific is now that command and the Indo-Pacific is now that focus. We have strengthened our alliances with India and with Australia and other countries in the region. We began working to foster a multilateral community—one that will protect the free and open nature of the region from the threat of China.

I was just reading in the news today that China clearly is sending a message in Hong Kong: If you don't want to be in jail and you are for Hong Kong freedom, you just need to leave right now. And, apparently, they are willing to help you get to where your thoughts don't impact others who are willing to live under—and, maybe, have no choice but to live under—the repression of China.

The President also took action to strengthen global security and stability by asking our allies to pull their weight. For too many years, other countries seemed content to let American taxpayers bear the cost of defending freedom everywhere in the world. President Trump challenged the other members of NATO to meet the organization's guideline of spending 2 percent of their gross domestic product on defense. Our allies stepped up in many cases and did better than they had been doing.

In 2016, just 4 of the 28 countries in NATO met the 2 percent guideline—4 out of 28. Today, that number is still not at 28, but it is at 10 countries that now exceed the guideline. Remember, four countries met the guideline 3 years and 10 months ago. Ten countries have now exceeded the guideline, and every country in the alliance with a military has increased its defense spending.

That is important progress, and it wouldn't have happened if the President of the United States had not been willing to say the obvious, and, frankly, be very direct about it and make himself an uncomfortable partner at the negotiating table. But if what you are uncomfortable about is that you are willing to say, ''Do what you have agreed to do,'' it is about time somebody not only said, ''Do what you have agreed to do,'' but said it in a way that other countries took it seriously.

The President sought to address imbalances and protect U.S. interests in the area of global trade. The Trump administration replaced the NAFTA agreement with a new trade deal with Mexico and Canada. NAFTA was great for all three countries, but it needed to be improved. It needed to be updated, and now it has been.

In my State, Missouri, those two countries are our two biggest trading partners, and that is the case for the United States. Mexico and then Canada dwarf trade with almost every other country in the world as they trade with the United States, and the new agreement will lead to more jobs and bigger paychecks in all three countries. Our goal in our neighborhood should be not

just to make ourselves stronger but to make our neighbors stronger, because we are stronger when our neighbors are stronger.

Nationwide, exports are expected to grow by $2.2 billion under the USMCA. And our trade relationship with Japan, the world's third largest economy, is even stronger, thanks to a new agreement that went into effect at the start of the year.

So it is clear that there has been lots of activity in America's foreign policy over the past 4 years. There has been a lot of important progress and a lot of success stories, and an awful lot of it was done in a very unconventional way. So, frankly, it just doesn't get covered by the traditional trade press or the traditional foreign policy press or the traditional defense press in ways that really the results should produce.

These are not areas that get the attention that they deserve. I think, when people look back at the 4 years that we have just completed in foreign policy, they are going to look at what has happened, understand it in the context of what was happening, and I am sure they will believe that these items I talked about today led to a stronger and safer country as we approach the years ahead of us.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BLUNT). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that after the remarks of the next speaker, I may be recognized for such time as I may consume.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Utah.

TRIBUTE TO ROB BISHOP

Mr. ROMNEY. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate the career of a remarkable public servant whose accomplishments have left an indelible mark upon our State and upon our country. Congressman ROB BISHOP has earned his place among the greats in Utah's political history, and we thank him for his service.

ROB has dedicated his political career to fighting the tough battles over issues that matter to the people of my State, from the virtue of federalism, States' rights, and protecting individual liberty, to promoting a strong national defense and sound public lands policy. And fight he did.

Four years ago, Puerto Rico was fast approaching a fiscal cliff when ROB, as chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, led a successful, bipartisan effort to pass a complicated rescue package to restructure Puerto Rico's debt before it was too late.

While ROB will never rush to take credit or seek the spotlight, his legislative achievements are enduring and deserve our full praise and recognition.

His accomplishments manifest closer to home as well. The brave men and women of our military and civilian workforce at Hill Air Force Base know ROB as a tremendous advocate and a devoted friend. Through the War on Terror, improvements and changes in aircraft, and updates to our nuclear arsenal, ROB has defended our Hill Air Force Base valiantly. At Dugway Proving Ground in Tooele, his commitment delivered the completion of an emergency aircraft runway.

ROB's impressive efforts and steady leadership have raised Utah's profile for our national defense. So, too, has his advocacy for the Utah Test and Training Range, so it makes sense that this key to our Nation's military readiness should bear his name. Next Congress, I intend to introduce a bill to rename it the ''Bishop Utah Test and Training Range.''

Rare is a man with such professional distinction, intellect, and personal conviction for the well-being of family, neighbors, and strangers alike, who carries himself with such humility as ROB. If you have had the pleasure of being with ROB at a gathering, you know where to find him at the end of the night—staying behind to help gather the chairs.

Most of all, ROB is a teacher. From his time as a public school teacher to his career in public service, one of his highest priorities has been ensuring that the next generation of young leaders has access to educational opportunities, not only by securing revenue for public school as an elected official but also by devoting his time to host students in the Capitol to teach them about politics, policy, and our government.

It is an honor to recognize my friend ROB BISHOP as he begins his next chapter with his wife Jeralynn and their five children and nine grandchildren. For anyone who has not had the great pleasure of meeting ROB, you will likely easily recognize him on the street as maybe the last man in Washington who wears an impeccable three-piece suit.

Thank you, ROB, and good luck.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

WESTERN SAHARA

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I have already asked unanimous consent that I be recognized for such time as I may consume.

This is what I want to do. Something happened today that is deeply troubling to me, and I have a written response to what happened today. I am going to go ahead and read that written response. Then, I want to talk about it.

My written response is—and I will take it so everybody will have the benefit of this. I am talking about people here in this country, people in Africa, people all around the world who are interested in this issue.

OK, this is the written response:

I think that all countries should recognize Israel, and applaud the president's unprecedented efforts to foster recognition between Israel and Arab nations through the Abraham Accords.

Today's White House announcement alleging Morocco's sovereignty over Western Sahara is shocking and deeply disappointing. I am saddened that the rights of the Western Saharan people have been traded away.

In 1966, as West Africa was being decolonized, the UN General Assembly agreed—

This is 1966—agreed the Sahara deserves a referendum of self-determination for its own future.

The United States has supported this policy for decades and has worked to accomplish a referendum of self-determination. Until today, this Administration had continued our long history, one that has remained consistent across administrations—

Democrat and Republican—

We're not alone in this position: the African Union, the United Nations, the International Court of Justice and the European Union have all agreed—the Sahrawi people have the right to decide [what] their own future [is going to be].

The president has been poorly advised by his team; he could have made this deal without trading [away] the rights of a voiceless people.

During my most recent visit to the Sahrawi refugee camps, I visited with the children that live there. They were joyous, happy, ordinary children who didn't know yet that they were part of a frozen, forgotten conflict where their hopes and freedoms were dying a cruel death.

I'm thinking about them and all the Sahrawians today. I won't stop fighting for them. I won't let the world forget them.

Today's announcement does not change the United Nations or the EU positions, nor the charter of the African Union nor the opinion of the [International Court of Justice]—a referendum must still happen.

I urge these organizations to stand strong to support Western Sahara's right to self-determination and am confident the [United States] will be able to return to the policy we've held since 1966.

Let me tell you what this is all about. During the colonization period in Africa, when different countries had colonies there, Spain had the colony of the land that is in question today. It was called the Spanish Sahara area at that time.

Now, if you remember your history, Franco was President at that time, and this was back when things were falling apart for Spain. Franco was losing a lot of the control, and they were not in a position to hold onto their colonies—not just in Africa but anyplace else in the world.

So at that time, the U.N. came in, in 1966. This goes all the way back to 1966. The U.N. asked for a referendum for self-determination for those people. So they recognized all the way back—that is, the United Nations recognized—the sovereignty of the Western Saharan people. That has been consistent since then.

That was 1966. Now, in 1975, when there were a lot of people kind of lining up to see who could get control, Morocco jumped in with all of their resources and did all they could at that

time to capture that area and to absorb that within Morocco—in other words, to take away from the free people of Western Sahara their land. And they did that.

So the International Court of Justice went on to say: Well, if the United Nations couldn't do it, let's at least give them the right for a referendum for self-determination. That was 1975. Immediately after that, Morocco invaded Western Sahara.

Now, you have to keep in mind that this is Morocco, with all of the resources and all the wealth that they had, taking on a country that was armed with crude instruments. These are the people who rightfully owned and have lived in Western Sahara.

Western Sahara, if you look—if I had time, if I had known about this, I would have brought the charts down to show where this land was and where it is today.

But, in 1975, the International Court of Justice made it very clear that they had the right to the territory—that Morocco had no right to the territory of Western Sahara. Now, they invaded Western Sahara. Spain and France were complicit at that time. Spain had already colonized that area, and France had desires to do that.

But today—today, as we speak today—there is not a country out there that recognizes the right of Morocco over Western Sahara—until today, when this statement came out that we are trying to recognize those rights.

Nobody—now, I am talking about what I have already listed, all of the people: the African Union, the United Nations, the International Court of Justice, the European Union—all of them—they recognize Sahrawi as the people who have the right to decide their own future. Everyone is in agreement.

I can remember talking, at one time, to Netanyahu over in Israel and explaining to them why Morocco should not be able to trade and somehow get control of land that they are not entitled to in order just to say: We recognize Israel.

Yes, we want all Arab nations to recognize Israel, and this is something this President has done. But this is the area that involves not just two countries, Morocco and Israel. It is all of the countries in Africa, virtually everybody in East and West Africa and all the surrounding area. They all agree that that is the territory of Western Sahara and that they should have a referendum of self-determination.

We all have agreed with that for years. We are talking about back to 1966. Everyone is in agreement that they are the ones who are entitled to that.

So in 1991 they had a ceasefire, and a mission began to provide a referendum for self-determination. That was the United Nations and virtually everybody else. Everyone was in agreement on that. Certainly, it was initiated from the United Nations, and that was to have a ceasefire in 1991, by the U.N., and work toward a self-determination.

Then, in 2004, the United States and Morocco signed a free-trade agreement. Now, this is kind of interesting, because this is a joint effort between our country, the United States, and Morocco for a free-trade agreement. In that free-trade agreement, they agreed to explicitly exclude Western Sahara because Morocco does not have sovereignty over it. Now, that was in the agreement in 2004 that was signed by both the United States and Morocco. So they agreed at that time, as everyone else did, that that should be an independent country with the right of self-determination.

Then the African Union came along. So far, you have the United Nations. You have the United States and Morocco in a signed free-trade agreement. But then you also had Morocco, when it joined the AU, signing a document. This is when it came from the African Union. They recognized Western Sahara as its own country. This is the African Union.

Now, we are talking about 52 nations in the African Union that all agree on this. No one is in disagreement on this.

And then Morocco, when it joined the AU, signed a document. When they joined the African Union—we are talking about Morocco now, up on the northeast edge of that territory. When they joined the AU, or the African Union, they signed a document acknowledging all member states and their borders; that is, acknowledging the Western Sahara area as not a part of Morocco. Now, this is Morocco agreeing to this.

So you have the United Nations in 1991. You have the United States and Morocco in the free-trade agreement in 2004. You have an agreement explicitly stating where the lines should be. Then you have the African Union coming along and recognizing. This is all of the countries, 52 nations in the African Union. So we have all of them in agreement with this.

South Africa is the present chair of the AU, and one of their priorities is to resolve the Western Sahara issue.

Now, all of that happened prior to today. And, as I say in my written statement, I really believe—I know our President has a big heart. I have argued for him and to benefit him. The various times that we have had conflicts out there—and one of them was when they came out with a statement that they were going to immediately—this was a couple of years ago—move the people out of Germany and move them back to the United States; that that was going to be done before the end of the year. And I made the public statement. That was not the President talking. That was a policy that came out of the White House, and I seriously doubted that he even knew about it and certainly would not agree with it.

If there is one thing the President is compassionate about, it is the families. You can't just uproot the families who were stationed in Germany and move them back to the United States—kids in school and all these things. He is a compassionate person. He is the first one in line to take care of our troops every time there is a problem.

This is the same situation. In this case, he is not the type of person that would bag the freedom-loving people of Western Sahara to Morocco.

So that is what happened. This is an old issue. It dates back to 1966. I can remember—and this is highly unusual—as a Member of the U.S. Senate, there was a hearing in the House—this is about maybe 5 or 6 years ago—and I served. I asked to be a witness in that hearing.

The hearing was about Western Sahara and Morocco. Now, keep in mind that Morocco is a very wealthy country. Virtually every lobbyist in Washington is paid by them. At that time, I could remember standing there in that hearing, in the House of Representatives, and listening to all the lobbyists that they had hired against a country that didn't have any money.

They don't have, really, any formal armaments. They are heroic people. They are fighters. They want to continue to fight for their freedom, but they don't have the resources.

So this is way back then, and I pointed out that Morocco has used all of their wealth to try to get the land that justly belongs to Western Saharan people. So that is not anything new. That has been happening for a long time.

At that time, I remember I took the transcript at that time—I think it was 6 or 7 years ago—in that hearing. I said that Morocco owns every lobbyist in Washington, DC, and it is kind of the giant out there against this small group of people who are being thrown out of their land that they justly own.

It is self-determination. Who can fight and argue against self-determination? Certainly, our President is not the type of person who would fight against self-determination. He would be for self-determination. That is the kind of person he is. That is why this thing—I just think it is some poor advice from some advisers that threw in that thing.

As I said in my formal statement, he could have done that with them without giving away the rights and the land of the Western Saharan people.

So I just want to make sure that everyone knows that this is—I strongly support everything that this President has successfully been doing in bringing the Arab world into the Israeli world and doing something for peace in the Middle East.

Everybody else has tried. Every Democrat and Republican President I can think of, in memory, has tried to do this and has not been successful, until this President did it.

It is just, in this case, I don't think it was necessary to give away—to stand up the people, the just people in an area where they don't have any resources. They have been living in the

desert. Three generations now have come and gone, and all of them know that at one time there was peace and they owned their land and that day would come that they would get their land back. That hasn't happened yet.

I think with this mistake that was made, it is certainly not in the interest of all of our friends. I say that without any exceptions. They are all on our side on this thing. Our policy has been clear since 1966, and we have been committed.

Some time ago, 1994, I came from the House to the Senate, and I had a long visit at that time with Jim Baker, who had been the Secretary of State in the previous administrations. I called him up, and I said: You know, this is such a huge injustice, what has happened, what Morocco has done to these people of Western Sahara.

He said: You are right, and we have done everything.

I said: We have got to change that, and I am going to make that commitment.

This was back in 1994.

He said: Well, I admire you for doing it. I will do all I can to cooperate with you.

This is Jim Baker talking.

He said: I don't think you will be able to do it because they have too many resources, too much money, and the Western Saharan people don't have any money. They don't have any resources. And they are the ones who have been abused in this.

He said: Good luck. I will do everything I can to help you.

That was back when Jim Baker was Secretary of State. That was a long time ago. Since that time, every administration—and not just Republican administrations but Democratic administrations—have all been lined up saying: This is a sense of fairness. It is something that has to be corrected. We can't allow that giant to take over the righteous people.

And that is what has happened. So it is not over yet. I can assure you that I will make every effort I can to make sure that we go back to the policy that we had and that ultimately we will achieve. Maybe this will be just the thing. This shock treatment for the American people and for people around the world might be just the thing that is going to offer them an opportunity for a referendum for self-determination. Who can be against a referendum for self-determination? Certainly no Americans whom I know of.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BRAUN). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

TRIBUTE TO SHARON PIERCE

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. President, I rise today to commend an outstanding Hoosier whose work in Indiana's child and family welfare system has touched countless lives, including my own. Sharon Pierce, president and CEO of The Villages—a nonprofit child and family services agency—will soon be retiring after a distinguished 47-year career of serving our children and our families.

Sharon also happens to be my aunt, and I have seen firsthand her love and dedication to Indiana's children. Her call to service started early in life. When she was young, Sharon's mother volunteered at a youth home in Fort Wayne. She and her siblings would help her mother with holiday parties. It was there that she first learned how important the family is to a child.

A graduate of Ball State University, Sharon's entire career since then has been dedicated to public service. Prior to her work at The Villages, she worked for several youth advocacy programs in Illinois. She also served as a deputy director at the Indiana Division of Family and Children—the forerunner of today's Indiana Department of Child Services. While at the Division of Family and Children, she helped create a 1–800 number to report suspected child abuse. She also established the Healthy Families Initiative, which still today provides resources to at-risk, first-time parents to help prevent abuse and neglect.

In 1992, she became the president and CEO of The Villages, where she has created a culture of compassion and a deep commitment to supporting families in need. At The Villages, children are enrolled in family and child support services, with the goal of helping to keep family members together. The Villages also provides foster care and offers support for relatives and family friends who are helping to raise a child, including education and child abuse prevention services.

Sharon has said: ''Even though The Villages is probably best known for high-quality foster care, the reality is we want to do anything we can to keep families together.''

''Anything we can to keep families together''—it is hard to imagine a mission more critical than this.

I am not the only one to offer my praise for Sharon Pierce. Indiana's Governor, Eric Holcomb, said the following:

> Sharon's saintly efforts over the decades touched the lives of countless Hoosier children. She taught, inspired, led so many others over the years to invest in those who need it the most.

Indiana Department of Child Services Director Terry Stigdon said:

> She exudes compassion and caring. . . . It's just innate to her being.

Sharon has dedicated her professional life to ensuring children have a bright future, regardless of their circumstances. Her work has inspired countless others, including me, and the policies I choose to focus on here in the Senate.

I know my Aunt Sharon is looking forward to spending more time with her husband—my Uncle Steve—their four children, and now their seven grandchildren. She has more than earned this next chapter in her life. But as a point of personal privilege and on behalf of the people of Indiana, I offer my heartfelt thanks for her decades of service, and I wish her very well in this next chapter.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

CORONAVIRUS

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I have to tell you, every day, I am hearing from Tennesseans who are asking what we are going to do about COVID relief. It is coming up in nearly every conversation that I have—with our county mayors, with citizens, with employers and employees; conversations with those who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own. Why can't we get something done?

The phones really started ringing last week when Speaker PELOSI, the Speaker of the House, accidentally revealed that it was politics and not principle that convinced her to spend months—months—standing between the American people and targeted relief that they are asking for and that they desperately need. It was politics—all politics to her. People were pawns that she was moving around, trying to get her way.

It is disgusting. It is a tragedy. But I will tell you this: It is nothing new. In fact, since July, Democrats have continuously blocked efforts to provide targeted relief. The minority leader obstructed these efforts in the hopes of passing a $3 trillion bill. That is right, trillion—$3 trillion bill. It was filled to the brim with partisan proposals that had nothing do with the pandemic and a bailout for fiscally irresponsible States and cities.

Tennesseans are very much opposed to having their hard-earned dollars that are tax dollars that come to the Federal Government used to bail out States that have chosen not to be fiscally responsible. They say: Above all else, do not bail out these States, these cities, these pension funds.

Let's be clear to the American people. It is the Speaker of the House and the minority leader who are holding noncontroversial relief—they are holding it hostage. There should be another round of PPP. There should be another increase, a plus-up, of unemployment. There should be more money for vaccines, testing, and getting children back to school. But, oh, no. For months, what did they want to do? Play politics. Play politics with people's lives. If that isn't the most tone-deaf thing that I have ever heard, I don't know what is. Perhaps some of my friends across the aisle should check their mail and make certain that their office phones are being answered. People are quite upset with them.

It doesn't stop there. I wish it did. It only gets worse. In the fall, the Democrats filibustered targeted relief proposals not once but twice and rejected

a much needed extension of the Paycheck Protection Program almost as soon as it was proposed. This month, more of the same. Their refusal to negotiate in good faith has made it abundantly clear to the business owners, the healthcare providers, and millions of other struggling Americans that partisan grandstanding is more of a priority for Democrats than doing their jobs.

The American people are not pawns, and it is time my colleagues in the minority stopped treating them as such. The House Speaker and Senate Democrats might have all the time in the world to stall. Maybe they are pretty comfortable with where they are. But outside of this Chamber, for a lot of our families and small businesses that are struggling, it is the eleventh hour. Now is not the moment to strong-arm the U.S. Senate into rubberstamping a radical liberal wish list. It is time to step up and deliver relief—targeted relief, relief we all agree will mean the difference between survival for many of these small businesses and economic collapse; money and support for vaccines; another full round of PPP funding for the businesses that need it most; and support for our frontline heroes and essential workers.

This bullet list of absolute essentials must also include reasonable, responsible liability protections for small businesses and healthcare workers. These protections are the flip side of relief funding. Without them, we take these business owners and workers out of one bad situation and put them right into another one. Without them, we effectively force entire industries to choose between economic survival or, in the case of healthcare workers, literal survival and death by opportunistic lawsuits. We can't allow this to happen.

One of the things that I have noticed this past year is how critical it is for us to be able to articulate problems and lay the foundation to address them before an emergency strikes.

In Tennessee, as in many other States, the number of people who live in rural and remote areas poses challenges when it comes to providing a variety of services that we all consider essential, chiefly among them, healthcare delivery and access to high-speed internet. I have worked with healthcare practitioners and advocates to cut a path forward for the widespread use of telemedicine.

Last year, I introduced the Rural Health Agenda to increase access to healthcare for the 60 million Americans who leave in rural areas. A crucial component of that legislative package was a set of provisions that lifted unnecessary regulatory barriers standing in the way of access to telemedicine. As always, it is the redtape that slows up progress. The pandemic only highlighted the importance of opening up contact-free access to healthcare.

Fortunately, in March, after a lot of meetings with the White House and Medicare and Medicaid Services Administrator Seema Verma, we were able to roll back a particularly frustrating regulation preventing the use of telemedicine by Medicare enrollees.

Provisions I supported as part of the CARES Act further expanded access to telemedicine by removing even more of that redtape and providing funding for reimbursement to frontline healthcare providers.

Of course, access to telehealth and access to high-speed internet go hand in hand. You can't really have one without the other.

This week, I learned that the FCC, as a result of the recent Rural Digital Opportunity Fund auction, has now made some great steps, and Tennessee is going to receive about $150 million to help close the digital divide over the next decade. These new connections will be a game changer for rural and underserved communities. Not only will they open up access to telehealth, distance learning, and remote work opportunities, they will open up the local economy and encourage growth and outside investment because these dollars are targeted to unserved areas.

This award, coupled with CARES Act funding put to work earlier this year, will help us build on our prepandemic work on behalf of rural and unserved Americans.

The Internet Exchange Act, a bipartisan bill I sponsored to provide grant funding for broadband infrastructure, recently reported out of our Commerce Committee.

The pieces are, indeed, falling into place, and, hopefully, we can keep the momentum going and finally get this job done: closing the digital divide, providing everyone with access to high-speed internet and allowing communities that have been cut off from economic development, from telehealth, from remote learning to enhanced law enforcement—allowing them to benefit.

It is not just a matter of connectivity or convenience. It is an investment in a better quality of life for all Americans who call the rural parts of this country home.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO KEVIN RYAN

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, for those of us who have the privilege of working in the U.S. Senate, it allows us the opportunity to meet wonderful people who care about their country, who go to work every day and make sure that the country is safe and secure.

One of those individuals, whom I met over the last year—met a year ago and now has worked in my office—is Army LTC Kevin Ryan. He is a member of my staff as an Army fellow participating in the U.S. Army Congressional Fellowship Program.

I want to take a moment to recognize LTC Kevin Ryan's contribution, certainly, to my office, to my capabilities of representing Kansas in the U.S. Senate, but his commitment to the country as well.

Before he departs my office to return to the big Army at the start of the new year, I want to express my appreciation to Colonel Ryan for all of his hard work and his dedication and his service to our country.

Kevin's 14 years of service in the U.S. Army have developed his leadership abilities and shaped his perspective on major defense issues of national significance. These assets and attributes have made him an invaluable asset for our team as we work to serve Kansans, members of the military, and our veterans.

Before joining our office, Kevin's assignments have taken him around the world in service to our country.

Kevin earned his commission from Norwich University, the Military College of Vermont. He has served four combat tours, two in Afghanistan and two in Iraq, and he has also been deployed to Korea, Germany, and Italy. His most recent deployment took him to Iraq in 2017, where he served as a senior intelligence officer for the brigade that assisted Iraqi security forces in the liberation of Mosul from the Islamic State.

Kevin is lucky to have his wife Lindsey, his daughter Colleen, and son John by his side. He is blessed to have their unwavering support.

Kevin joined our team in January of 2019. From day one, he embraced Kansas, its people, and the challenges they face day in and day out. He is well known for displaying his love of Kansas outwardly, often wearing a Kansas necktie in meetings and on Zoom calls.

He has made it a priority to spend time in our State and learn from Kansans so he can bring their thoughts and ideas back to the Nation's Capital. These personal conversations with Kansans and Kevin's experience in the Army helped drive meaningful policy.

He has led the efforts to recognize the important work of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, the only all-African-American, all-female battalion to be deployed overseas during World War II. The Six Triple Eight, as this battalion has come to be known, sorted millions of pieces of backlogged mail so the troops serving on the frontlines could hear from families and loved ones. Their efforts boosted morale and directly contributed to our servicemembers' fighting spirit toward the end of the war. Kevin has been a tireless advocate for these women, and I commend his dedication to this cause.

Though I am sad he will be leaving our office at the end of the month, I know he will serve the Army well next

year in the Army's programs office, where he will be a highly effective ambassador to Congress for the Army.

Kevin is one of the most impressive military officers I have had the honor of knowing. I hold him in the highest regard, personally and professionally. He is a significant asset to our country and to the U.S. Army. Kevin represents the best the Army has to offer, and I know he will continue to benefit the future of our Nation.

There is no group of people I hold in higher regard than those who serve our Nation, and I want to reiterate my gratitude to Kevin and to his family for their dedication and service to our Nation.

Once again, Kevin, thank you for all you have done for Kansans, all you have done for our team as we serve those Kansans. You have been a model of selfless service and leadership. I know you will continue to do great things throughout your Army career and your life of service, wherever that path may lead.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, we are currently in the midst of the worst moment of the pandemic up until now.

We have recordbreaking numbers of deaths, of diagnoses of people with COVID–19, of hospitals unable to accommodate even more people.

And in the midst of this pandemic, obviously, we are also in a severe economic meltdown, and there are economists who are telling us that the desperation of working families in this country today, right now, is worse than at any time since the Great Depression.

In Vermont and all over this country, we have workers who have lost their jobs and their income; people who are, by the millions, behind in their rent and are afraid of being evicted, afraid of losing their homes; people who have lost their health insurance, unable to go to a doctor. In the midst of a terrible pandemic, they don't have health insurance, can't go to a doctor when they get sick.

And what we are seeing today is a record number of Americans who are struggling, literally, with hunger, unable to feed their kids. I know in Vermont and all over this country there are lines of automobiles, cars of people—people who had never received governmental help—in line for emergency bags of groceries.

That is what is going on in this country today.

Now, back in March, in the beginning of the pandemic, this Congress came together—Democrats and Republicans and President Trump came together—and virtually unanimously passed the CARES Act, $2.2 trillion, which, among many other features, provided a $600 supplement to unemployment benefits for 4 months and $1,200 direct payments for every working-class adult in this country, plus $500 for their children.

And here is the truth: That program, that CARES Program, saved lives, gave dignity to people who were at their wit's end, and saved this economy from further downfall.

Well, today, we are where we are, which is at another terrible moment in this pandemic, and this Congress must act. We cannot leave here to go home to our families for the Christmas holidays while other families throughout this country, by the millions, are wondering how they are going to pay the rent or feed their kids. We cannot do that.

And I am proud to say that Senator HAWLEY from Missouri and I have worked together on a pretty simple amendment that he will be talking about in a second, which says that we must include in any legislation that is passed a direct payment of $1,200 for adults and $500 for kids.

We cannot, we must not leave Washington unless we do that. And next week I am going to do everything that I can to make sure that that happens. We cannot, we will not leave Washington unless we make certain that millions of families have the economic assistance that they need.

So we are working on bipartisan legislation, and Senator HAWLEY has done a very, very good job on this, and I am proud to yield the floor to him.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. HAWLEY. Mr. President, I am delighted to join with Senator SANDERS in this important legislation.

It is very simple legislation, and this is, to my mind, a very simple proposition. Here is the proposition: that when it comes to COVID relief in the midst of this crisis, working families and working people should be first to get relief, not last. Their interests, their needs should be first on our to-do list, not last.

Now, I have heard some of my colleagues say that there just isn't enough left for working families; that once we take care of our other priorities in COVID relief, there just isn't enough left to give direct assistance to individuals.

I want to respectfully suggest that those priorities are exactly reversed. We should begin with the working people of this country, and that is why the legislation that Senator SANDERS and I are introducing, which I believe every Senator voted for in March—it is simple legislation—$1,200 for each individual, $2,400 for a couple, and $500 for every dependent in the family. It is exactly what this Congress approved overwhelmingly back in March, and it was, indeed, a lifeline. I know it was for Missourians in my State, for working families in my State.

I remember, in the hours and days after Congress passed this in March, fielding call after call after call from friends, from people I didn't know in my State but whom I represent, who called me to say: First of all, is it really true? Are we actually going to be getting this support? And then just to say thank you.

And I said: Don't thank me. Thank you for being the ones who have built this country, the ones who sustain this country, the ones on whom this country depends.

And I will just say also, as a matter of fairness—if the U.S. Government is going to shut down your business, if it is going to tell you to go home for health reasons, if it is going to give you no choice in the matter, I think that there is an obligation to support and help the people who are affected, through no fault of their own. Let's be clear. The millions of Americans who are out of work because of this pandemic, they haven't done anything wrong. The 853,000 Americans who today, the new numbers tell us, filed for unemployment benefits, they are not at fault in this pandemic.

We want to support and stand with working individuals and working families. I want the working people of Missouri to know that they are first on the priority list, and when it comes to COVID relief, we will not leave this town until we have voted—up or down—until we have voted on direct relief for working people in my State, in Senator SANDERS's State, and in every State in this Union.

With that, I thank Senator SANDERS, and I yield back.

Mr. SANDERS. Well, thank you very much, Senator.

And let me just say this: In March, as Senator HAWLEY indicated, we came together, and I had the same experience in Vermont. People in desperation called the office: When can we get the check? We desperately need it. And I suspect it was the same thing in Texas and the same thing in every other State in this country. People are hurting.

We cannot go home unless we address the needs of those people. And the amendment that Senator HAWLEY and I are introducing could not be simpler. It is $1,200 in direct payment for adults up to a certain limit—the same limit as was in the CARES Act—and $500 for their children. We have already voted and passed that exact same provision in March, and the situation today is not better. In some respects, it is worse.

So I would hope that we would have bipartisan support for this legislation. Look, it is no great secret, whether you are a Republican, Democrat, or whatever, that people are losing faith in their government. They are hurting; their kids are hurting; their parents are hurting. They look to Washington and they say: Do you know that we exist or are you just worried about your rich friends and your campaign contributors?

In this moment of economic crisis, we have got to do everything that we can to restore faith that this government works for ordinary people. So let us do the right thing. Let us pass this amendment in a bipartisan way. Let us show the working families of America that we understand what they are going through, and we are going to stand with them.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 2420

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I am glad to be here on the floor of the Senate with my friend Senator BOB MENENDEZ asking that the U.S. Senate advance legislation to establish a National Museum of the American Latino.

As a proud Texan, I am fortunate to have grown up in a State steeped in the contributions of Hispanics and Latinos. Approximately 40 percent of our population is composed of Latinos in Texas, but they are not monolithic by any stretch of the imagination, which is why we need a museum to tell their stories.

There are the Tejanos, whose roots in the Lone Star State predate our statehood or even Texas independence, as well as those who have emigrated from other States or countries and have chosen to call Texas home more recently.

From the brave soldiers who fought in the Texas Revolution to the civil rights activists like Cesar Chavez, cultural icons like Selena, and leaders of all types in our communities, generations of Latino Americans have shaped our country as it is today. But, as I suggested a moment ago, many Americans simply aren't aware of the vast contributions made by these men and women who have come before us, and one critical way we can right this wrong is by providing a home for their stories in the Nation's Capital.

I have heard somebody suggest that we don't need a separate museum for different racial groups and ethnic groups or the like, but this is far more important than that because the story of American Latinos is the story of America itself. Many people simply aren't familiar with the vast contributions they have made.

This particular effort has been underway for more than 25 years. Nothing happens very quickly, particularly when it comes to establishing a new museum like this, but we are just two steps away, and I hope the Senate can take one big step this afternoon by passing this bipartisan legislation and sending it to the President's desk for his signature.

I know there are some of our colleagues who have concerns about the museum's location, and I can assure them that Congress will have a voice in the site of this museum. But before construction can begin, congressional committees will be consulted on site selection as laid out in the bill and I believe the colloquy that will be made a part of this record.

The Smithsonian Board of Regents, which will select the site, is chaired by the Supreme Court Chief Justice and comprises multiple Members of Congress, including three sitting Senators and the Vice President. The Congress will also need to appropriate funds to supplement the private fundraising that will help finance this museum. The appropriation requirement will be a de facto ratification or rejection of the site selected by the Smithsonian Board of Regents. So there is going to be a lot of input in that decision. We are not making that decision here today. And I believe there need to be open lines of communication between Members of Congress and the Smithsonian Board of Regents as they undertake this significant project.

It has been estimated that if we pass this bill today, the doors to a new museum will not open for at least a decade, so I am eager to get the process moving.

The National Museum of the American Latino will honor and preserve the stories of Latinos throughout American history so generations can view a more accurate and more complete history of the contributions made by these great Americans, and I hope the Senate will advance this critical legislation today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I have come to the floor today and will shortly ask for unanimous consent on H.R. 2420, the National Museum for the American Latino Act.

Let me just thank my colleague, the senior Senator from Texas, Mr. CORNYN, who has been a great partner throughout this entire process, a strong advocate who helped us navigate some of the challenges we have had along the way. I am also thrilled to be on the floor with Senator COLLINS, who will shortly make a motion on the Women's History Museum, which I strongly support, and I appreciate her support for the American Latino Museum.

Today the Senate stands at the precipice of history. We have before us an opportunity to set in motion a process that will eventually culminate in the establishment of a national museum devoted to the history, struggles, and achievements of Latinos and Latinas in the United States. This is long overdue.

Some colleagues say: Well, why do we need another museum? Well, it was in 1994 when the Smithsonian Task Force on Latino Issues published its report entitled ''Willful Neglect''—a report acknowledging the Institution's own glaring omission of Hispanic history and culture.

This is what the report found:

> The Smithsonian Institution, the largest museum complex in the world, displays a pattern of willful neglect towards . . . Latinos in the United States. Because of both indigenous roots and Spanish heritage, Latinos predate the British in the [United States]. They have contributed significantly to every phase and aspect of American history and culture. Yet the institution almost entirely excludes and ignores Latinos in nearly every aspect of its operations.
>
> Latinos are absent from positions of power and authority within the institution, which helps to perpetuate the exclusion of Latino history and culture from the museum's collections, exhibitions, and programs.

The report also acknowledges how the Smithsonian's exclusion of Latinos and Latinas has not only harmed Hispanic Americans but all Americans.

The report says:

> The failure of the Smithsonian to reflect and represent Hispanic contributions is twice damaging. It denies Latinos their right to feel recognized and valued as part of the country's heritage. At the same time, it perpetuates among the general population the inaccurate belief that Latinos have contributed little to our country's development or culture, rather than reflecting the multicultural history . . . of the United States.

Without treading into politics, I think it is important we acknowledge that this misconception is alive and well today. In recent years, we have heard Hispanic Americans, immigrants, and their families used as scapegoats for every economic ill facing our Nation. We have witnessed the rise of nativism and xenophobia. We have seen these hateful statements propel acts of horrific violence like the tragic El Paso shooting.

But we Latinos and Latinas are not invaders. We have been here from the beginning. The oldest city in America, well before Pilgrims and Jamestown, is St. Augustine, FL, over 500 years ago founded by a gentleman named Pedro Aviles de Menendez. And our stories must be told.

Who here does not emerge from the Smithsonian Museum of American History more informed about the many movements that have shaped our country? Who does not emerge from the Museum of the American Indian more aware of Native American history and more appreciative of their cultures? Who does not emerge from the Museum of African American History inspired by the perseverance and the power of our Black community? We all do. The Smithsonian Institution is truly a national treasure.

But I am not White or Black or Native American. I am Latino. I am one in five Americans today. My grandchildren are one in four schoolchildren today. But when we walk through the National Mall—or should I say when anyone walks through the National Mall, no one is inspired by the story of Latinos and Latinas in this country because that story is not being told.

Walk outside these halls and ask someone who Bernardo de Galvez was, the former Governor of Louisiana before Louisiana was a State, who led an all-Spanish division against the British as they were approaching Washington and helped in the Revolutionary War? The Congress gave him U.S. citizenship. His portrait was supposed to be hung in the Congress of the United States, so much was the battle that he

led. His portrait finally hangs in the Senate Foreign Relations room.

Go to Farragut metro station and ask a rider who it was named for. David Farragut, the Spanish captain who led during the Civil War on behalf of the Union.

Visit a school and ask a child where the first settlers to this country hailed from. They won't say St. Augustine, FL.

I guarantee these questions will go unanswered because the history of the American Latino remains unknown.

It has been nearly 30 years since the Smithsonian Task Force on Latino Issues recommended that the Institution immediately begin laying ''the groundwork needed to assure the establishment of one or more museums portraying the historical, cultural, and artistic achievements of U.S. Hispanics.'' Thirty years. For nearly 30 years, those words have echoed on empty ears. My friends, that silence and inaction must end today.

We Hispanics are not a monolithic community. Our families are as diverse as they come. We are Puerto Rican, Mexican, Cuban, Colombian, Spanish, Salvadoran, and more. We are Brown, Black, and White, left and right, and everywhere in between. Some of our ancestors settled here long before the dawn of our Republic; others arrived alongside generations of immigrants around the world searching for freedom and opportunity. Some of us grew up along our southern border in cities and communities born out of blended cultures.

Some of us, myself included, are first-generation Americans. Our parents courageously uprooted their lives and came to this country with no connection at all in order to give their children a brighter future.

Indeed, that story of hard work and boundless optimism is the common thread that runs throughout our Latino community—all 60 million of us living in the United States. And I would argue that story is as American as they come.

So let us ensure that the story is told right here in the Nation's Capital, where it belongs. Let us pass H.R. 2420. Let us ensure that someday in the near future, Latino and Latina children and other children who walk through our National Mall will no longer wonder why the story of their families are missing. I know I cannot wait for the day that I can take my granddaughters to the National Museum of the American Latino.

So it has been a long and winding road for this bill, one which I hope will complete its path today in Congress. This has already been passed by the House of Representatives by voice vote—no opposition. This passed the Rules Committee in a unanimous voice vote.

Now, we have been asked to make some changes to accommodate my colleague, the chair of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, and while I personally do not believe that these changes are fair to the Latino community or required or necessary for the bill, I am committed to making them to pass this bill and finally moving one step closer to the construction of the museum.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 600, H.R. 2420. I ask unanimous consent that the Murkowski amendment at the desk be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I want to thank my friend and colleague, the Senator from New Jersey, for bringing this issue to the floor today.

Cultural programs may represent and do, in fact, represent a tiny fraction of all Federal spending, but they are magnified many times over by virtue of their symbolic and their substantive impact. Culture is, of course, upstream from politics. It is more important, and it is more deserving of more of our attention.

For that reason, the Smithsonian Institution is more than just another line item in our Federal budget. It is one of the great cultural triumphs of our Republic. From the moment of our founding, the United States has faced an almost unique problem in history. How do we turn our huge Nation's cultural, religious, ethnic, and regional differences from a potential weakness into a real strength? The way our Nation has always achieved this is by creating institutions that unite Americans around shared interests and the mystic chords of collective memory.

The Constitution, the Senate itself, our free enterprise economy, our Armed Forces and public schools, Federalism, localism, the First Amendment, and even March Madness all fit this bill. They have the power to harness our individual and community differences to the common good of the whole Nation.

Now, the Smithsonian Institution does the exact same thing. It winds all the myriad strands of America's triumphant history into one imperfect but heroic story. Americans of every age, race, creed, and background come to Washington from all over the country to visit the Smithsonian museums—Natural History, American History, Air and Space, American Art, the National Zoo. Within the walls of the Smithsonian museum, just like at the National Gallery of Art or the great memorials that dot this city, there is no us and them. There is only us.

So my objection to the creation of a new Smithsonian museum or series of museums based on group identity—what Theodore Roosevelt called ''hyphenated Americanism''—is not a matter of budgetary or legislative technicalities. It is a matter of national unity and cultural inclusion.

Now, we have seen in recent years what happens when we indulge the cultural and identity balkanization of our national community. The so-called critical theory undergirding this movement does not celebrate diversity. It weaponizes diversity. It sharpens all those hyphens into so many knives and daggers. It has turned our college campuses into grievance pageants and loosed Orwellian mobs to cancel anyone daring to express an original thought. Especially at the end of such a fraying, fracturing year, Congress should not splinter one of the national institutional cornerstones of our distinct national identity.

The Smithsonian Institution should not have an exclusive Museum of American Latino History or a Museum of Women's History or a Museum of Americans Men's History or Mormon History or Asian American History or Catholic History. American history is an inclusive story that should unite us—us.

The Senator from New Jersey is absolutely right that the history of American Latinos is a vital part of America's history. So, of course, is the history of American women, who have written more than half of the American story, going all the way back to Plymouth Rock. Their stories are our stories, and they are stories that emphatically should be told by the Smithsonian Institution at the Museum of American History, period. No hyphen.

Now, the Senator from New Jersey is well aware of my stingy views on Federal spending, but if American Latino or American women's history are being underrepresented at the Museum of American History, that is a problem, and that is the problem that we should address here. I will happily work with him or anyone else to correct those problems, even if it means more money, more exhibits, new floors or wings.

I understand what my colleagues are trying to do and why, and I respect what they are trying to do, and I even share their interest in ensuring that these stories are told. But the last thing we need is to further divide an already divided Nation with an array of segregated, separate-but-equal museums for hyphenated identity groups.

At this moment in the history of our diverse Nation, we need our Federal Government and the Smithsonian Institution itself to pull us closer together and not further apart. On that basis, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, 60 million Latinos in this country are watching tonight because this is a much expected moment—Univision, Telemundo, affiliates across the country, national organizations, and others. They have been waiting for this moment, a moment that everybody in the

Congress of the United States agrees to except for one colleague. The House of Representatives passed this on voice. The Rules Committee passed it on voice in a bipartisan manner. And tonight, one colleague stands in the way—one Republican colleague from Utah stands in the way of the hopes and dreams and aspirations of seeing Americans of Latino descent having their dreams fulfilled in being recognized—just being recognized.

Now, the Smithsonian is a collection of museums. Let's be honest with that. Did we need an Air and Space Museum? Do we need a museum of the Native Americans? Did we need an African-American Museum? I would say yes to all of them because they are part of the mosaic. They are brought together under the rubric of the single most significant cultural institution in the Nation, which is the Smithsonian.

I don't know if these arguments were made against the Native Americans. I don't know if these arguments were made against African Americans, but I don't see them as being separate and apart. I see them as part of the collective history mosaic that is coming together under the Smithsonian. More than half of the Nation's population are women. Are we to deny them that their history in our country is not being told? It is not. It is beyond Betsy Ross, who I appreciate very much.

And, talk about funding, this bill requires that 50 percent of all the funding be coming from private sources. So we will fuel the development of programming, as well as the physical structure, as well as the other elements by the community and communities who want to see this become a reality.

It is 30 years of willful neglect. Nobody cared, nobody made any effort, and nobody did anything about it. And in the one chance we have, since this has been a 20-plus year journey to try to make this museum possible, one Republican colleague stands in the way. One Republican colleague stands in the way. It is pretty outrageous. It is pretty outrageous.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. MURKOWSKI). The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Madam President, I want to be clear about something. All racial, ethnic, religious groups in America are worthy of celebration, even to the extent of having their own museums. Indeed, many of them already do—in many instances, institutions and museums that are not part of or funded by the Federal Government in whole or in part. If we had more museums and fewer tweets, America would certainly be better off.

This isn't about whether such museums should exist or not. This is about the Smithsonian Institution, which is itself federally funded. I understand that they also raise a significant portion of their money, but there is a brand that comes along with the Smithsonian Institution and a lot of money that is taken from the American people in the form of tax revenue. So, as a result of that, the Smithsonian Institution has a unique role and responsibility in our culture and as a repository and teller of America's national story.

Now, it is absolutely true that African Americans and American Indians have a unique place in that story in that they were rather uniquely, deliberately, and systemically excluded from it. Unlike many other groups, they were persecuted and they were essentially written out of our national story and even had their own stories virtually erased—not simply by our culture or evolving values, but by that very same government, this same Federal Government.

It is, therefore, uniquely appropriate that the Federal Government provide the funding to recover and tell those communities' specific stories today at dedicated museums in the specific context of having been so long excluded from our national community and our national story.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, I just have to say: We have been systemically excluded. We, who founded the oldest city in America before there was a United States of America; we, who ultimately were used as farm workers and discriminated against in the Bracero program; we, who were discriminated against when we voluntarily joined the Armed Forces of the United States to defend the Nation—we have been systematically excluded, not because this Senator said so but because the Smithsonian itself said so.

And yet we are supposed to entrust the willful neglect that has taken place for more than three decades—taken place longer but acknowledged for three decades. Oh, no, we are somehow not systemically excluded. Believe me, we have been, and the only righteous way to end that exclusion is to pass this bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Madam President, if the Smithsonian Institution in its report in 1994 in fact acknowledged that it systematically excluded the stories of any one segment in American society, I struggle to understand why the only response to that has to be a separate, siloed museum. Why not direct them, when telling our national story at the National Museum of American History, to tell that story there. If we have to expand it, we will do that. If we have to add more floor space and more staff and more research, let's do that. But the fact that they have identified their own failure over time doesn't mean that they themselves should then get to decide that we have a separate, siloed museum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, before I give my remarks, I want to strongly associate myself with the comments that have been made this evening by my colleagues from Texas and New Jersey—Senator CORNYN and Senator MENENDEZ—in support of a museum to celebrate and commemorate the achievements of Latinos in our country.

I could not help but wonder, as I heard the comments of my colleague from Utah, whether he also tried to block the museum celebrating and telling the history of African Americans, that museum which is so popular on the Mall. I wondered whether he tried to block also the creation of the museum that tells the story of Native Americans.

I am convinced that if this bill, which has just been described by my two colleagues, were brought to a vote on the Senate floor, it would pass, not unanimously, that is clear, but with a very strong vote. And it seems wrong that one Senator can block consideration of a bill that would have overwhelming support by a majority of this body.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 959

So, Madam President, I rise today on behalf of myself and the Senator from California, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, to urge the Senate to take the important step of passing our legislation to establish a long overdue women's history museum in our Nation's Capital.

This is an issue that I have been working on since 2003, when I introduced the first bill to tell the story of more than half of our population, of the contributions of American women to our country in every field: government, business, medicine, law, literature, sports, entertainment, the arts, the military, the family.

Telling the history of American women matters, and a museum recognizing our achievements and experiences has long been a goal of many of the women and men who serve in this Chamber.

Following 18 months of study by an independent, bipartisan commission established by Congress, the Commission unanimously concluded: ''America needs and deserves a physical national museum dedicated to showcasing the historical experiences and impact of women in the country.'' I agree wholeheartedly with the Commission's unanimous conclusion.

This year, we commemorate the 100th anniversary of suffrage for women in this country and the decades-long fight for women's equality at the ballot box. It is extraordinary to me that just 100 years ago, not every woman in this country was allowed to vote in every State. That is not that long ago. That story is one of the stories that needs to be told.

Amid the celebrations of this historic year, I can think of no better way to tell the story of American women to inspire those young girls and young boys who come to Washington to tour all the wonderful museums that are part of the Smithsonian than to create

a museum of American women's history so that they can better understand the contributions of American women to the development of our Nation and its proud history.

As with the legislation that would establish a museum celebrating and commemorating the history of Latino and Latina Americans, this legislation has passed the House by an overwhelming margin. Surely, we ought to be able to take it up and pass it here too.

So, Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 599, S. 959. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported amendment be withdrawn, the Murkowski amendment at the desk be agreed to, and the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed, and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. LEE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, I think this is a sad moment. I had hoped that we could proceed with both of these bills and pass them before the end of this year.

Surely, in a year where we are celebrating the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage, this is the time, this is the moment to finally pass the legislation unanimously recommended by an independent commission to establish an American women's history museum in our Nation's Capital. I regret that that will not occur this evening, but we will not give up the fight.

Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. COLLINS). The Senator from Alaska.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, I would like to follow up on the comments you have just shared with your support for a women's history museum and also to the comments made by the Senator from New Jersey and also the Senator from Texas regarding the American-Latino museum.

I am privileged to serve as the chairman of the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee. As part of that subcommittee, we have oversight of the Smithsonian, and it is an incredibly rewarding part of the job that I have to do with oversight. So I am very well aware of these national treasures, what they contribute to the education, to the dialogue, and to just the motivation that comes when we know and understand more about our own country and about the people who make up this extraordinary mosaic called America and how we recognize and how we celebrate those contributions, how we acknowledge the challenges that women have faced along the way, African Americans or Latinos, as they have truly been extraordinary participants in this American society.

I also recognize that our Smithsonians don't come free. They don't come cheap, as the Senator from Utah noted. The Smithsonians are funded with significant Federal taxpayer dollars, so we are required to show a level of—exercise with how we move forward. And we have been extraordinarily judicious.

I think, as the Presiding Officer noted in her comments, when the discussion of a women's history museum first came about, it was not just a flash-in-the-pan idea. It was something that had germinated a long period of time. It goes to a commission. There are a series of steps and approvals that they must go through along the way. So the path that we have taken has led us to the point today where there has been a request made to be able to advance both of these significant recognitions to American Latina and American women by way of additional Smithsonian facilities.

I support both of those, just as I have supported our Smithsonians as new ones have come online—the African-American museum most recently—or the renovations that have been underway for a period.

I also recognize that the effort tonight made by both the Presiding Officer, as prime sponsor of the American women's history museum, and incorporating an amendment that I had requested that ensures that as we are looking to sites for these significant facilities, that we are doing so with a level of a cooperation. I don't think anybody wants to be in a situation where the Smithsonian would effectively be able to tell, whether it is the Department of Agriculture or the U.S. Forest Service, we want your building. That is not how the process works.

So the amendments that were incorporated in both of these measures that were before us today, I think, was an important one, I think was a significant one.

Some may have heard that LISA MURKOWSKI was not supporting these museums—far from it. What I wanted to ensure is that we have a good, sound process for where we site these extraordinarily—extraordinarily important facilities.

My hope is that we will resolve this impasse because the contributions, whether they be from women over the decades, the Latina community, Latino community, over the decades and the centuries, that there be facilities that appropriately recognize and celebrate them.

With that, I yield the floor.

MORNING BUSINESS

TRIBUTE TO LAMAR ALEXANDER

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, when LAMAR ALEXANDER came to the Senate in 2002, he brought with him a wealth of experience and years of service to the State of Tennessee. As a Senator, he has remained a strong advocate for his State and its citizens, and as a colleague, he has shown a willingness to work across the aisle for the good of his constituents, of the Senate, and of the Nation. Our partnership is one that I will miss when he leaves the Senate.

Throughout his career—as Governor of Tennessee, as president of the University of Tennessee, and as the Secretary of Education for President George H.W. Bush, and as a U.S. Senator—LAMAR has dedicated himself to improving education quality and access for Tennesseans and all Americans alike. He has continued and advanced that work as the chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee. Senator ALEXANDER has a proven record of working across the aisle to develop solutions to our country's most pressing healthcare and education challenge, and we know there are many.

I have had the privilege of working with Senator ALEXANDER for many years on the Appropriations Committee. Senator ALEXANDER has been a trusted partner on the committee, striving to reach bipartisan compromise, which I believe has long been the hallmark of the Appropriations Committee. His work as the current chairman of the Energy and Water Subcommittee has helped make investments in clean and renewable energy initiatives, which in turn have brought about economic development and investment. I have long appreciated the work he has done to support agencies, programs, and initiatives that improve the lives of all Americans.

In a body as divisive as the Senate has come to be in recent times, LAMAR has become more than a fellow Senator; he has become a friend. LAMAR, Honey, and their children and grandchildren deserve all the best that the coming years have in store for them.

TRIBUTE TO MIKE ENZI

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, one factor that helps make someone a strong representative of their constituents is the body of experience they bring to their job. MIKE ENZI has spent his life representing his constituents, first as a mayor, then in the Wyoming Senate, and ultimately in the U.S. Senate, a post to which the people of Wyoming have elected and reelected him four times.

While our States are quite different geographically, Wyoming, like Vermont, is State of close-knit communities, and it is easy to see how deeply Senator ENZI cares for his fellow Wyomingites and how firmly he prioritizes his constituents. As a Senator, he has worked to expand resources for vocational and technical education programs nationwide, and he has worked to protect and create jobs in Wyoming and across the United States as a strong advocate for domestic energy production from a diverse array of sources.

MIKE has been a longtime member and top Republican of the Senate Budget Committee and, before that, of the

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee. Although we certainly have not agreed on many policy issues and priorities over the years, I have greatly appreciated working alongside Senator ENZI to fund and define many other legislative priorities to meet the needs of the American people.

I will miss my fellow Italian-Irish friend. We were a proud caucus of the only two Irish-Italian American Senators. Upon his retirement from the Senate, I would like to thank Senator ENZI for his service, and Marcelle and I wish MIKE and his wife Diana all the best.

TRIBUTE TO TOM UDALL

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. Pesident, there are some for whom public service simply isn't a choice; it runs through their veins as a calling and a force that draws them to answer an undeniable call. TOM UDALL is one of those people, and when the curtain closes on this 116th Congress and on TOM's service in the Senate, it will bookend a career in Congress in which the Udalls, a family steeped in public service, can take great pride. The UDALL legacy will live on in its benefits for generations of Americans to come.

First as a Representative to the U.S. House and later as a U.S. Senator, TOM has consistently fought for the interests of New Mexico and his State's people. He has been instrumental in the passage of legislation that has not only brought important resources to the people of New Mexico, but has protected and preserved our environment. For his constituents at home, this has meant more conservation of public lands and significant expansions of access to education, healthcare, and land tenure rights for Native Americans in New Mexico and across the United States.

TOM fought hard to protect the environment and invest in a more sustainable future. As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee and as the ranking member of the Interior and Environment Subcommittee, he advocated strongly for continued financial assistance for Federal, State, and local programs that focus on environmental conservation and work to address climate change and its effects. Critically, he fought against draconian budget cuts to such entities as the Environmental Protection Agency and fought to protect our clean air and clean drinking water laws. Working with TOM on the Appropriations Committee, it has been easy to see his clear dedication to his constituents, and his devoted service to country.

I was saddened when TOM announced his retirement, but I believe TOM will never close the door on his public service. Marcelle and I wish TOM and his wife Jill, and the rest of their family, all the best in the coming years. It was a privilege to be on the floor of the Senate when TOM gave his farewell address. Such honesty, patriotism, wisdom of how we can and must restore the workings of the Senate—all current Senators and future Senators should listen.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN LATINO ACT

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I rise to engage in a colloquy with the distinguished chairman of the Senate Rules Committee and the senior Senator from Texas with regard to a commitment made between all of us here.

This commitment is related to the [consideration] of H.R. 2420, National Museum of the American Latino Act, previously reported out of the Rules Committee on December 3, and championed by Senator CORNYN.

As chairman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition. and Forestry and having spearheaded the effort to design and build the Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial, I appreciate the goal of this legislation, but also the challenges getting the effort across the goal line.

H.R. 2420 has an honorable cause: to build a museum that focuses on the legacy of the Latino people, one that is embedded in the history of the United States. The purpose of the National Museum of the American Latino is to serve as the premier location for people to learn about Latino contributions to life, art, history, and culture in the United States.

I support such an effort. However, I raise one issue with the legislation, that the U.S. Department of Agriculture's historic main headquarters building is specified in the bill as a potential location for the museum.

USDA has been headquartered at the location on the National Mall since 1868. The main building was renamed in 1995 in honor of one of the longest serving members of Congress, Jaime L. Whitten of Mississippi. I had the pleasure to serve with Chairman Whitten in the House.

USDA provides leadership on issues related to food, agriculture, rural development, and nutrition. The work of the Department benefits residents in our rural communities and supports agriculture production that feeds hundreds of millions of Americans and others throughout theworld.

The legacy of the Latino people is intertwined with the communities that USDA serves in rural and urban America.

I appreciate the efforts of the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Museum of the American Latino. Having recently completed the decades-long endeavor to establish Ike's memorial, I am sympathetic to the desire to establish a tribute in our Nation's Capitol. It is not an easy process, and there will undoubtedly be challenges along the way.

Attempting to relocate the historic headquarters of one of the largest Federal agencies which serves all Americans is a hurdle that can be avoided.

So I encourage the board of trustees of the National Museum of the American Latino and the board of regents of the Smithsonian Institution, who are responsible for choosing the site location of the museum, to work through their processes as they finalize a location. And as they do so, I encourage them to appreciate USDA's mission and constituency when they make hard decisions and consider the expense of relocating USDA.

I am pleased that we have come to a compact with regard to the location for this museum, that we agree here to encourage the board of trustees and the board regents to break ground on a fresh location, rather than a historic site of a Department that has served and will continue to serve our Nation's farmers, ranchers, growers, and other rural stakeholders.

I now yield to my friend, Mr. BLUNT, the senior Senator from Missouri and chairman of the Senate Rules Committee, to offer his perspective.

Mr. BLUNT. Thank you, Chairman ROBERTS. I was pleased the Rules Committee favorably approved H.R. 2420, the National Museum of the American Latino Act, earlier this month.

There is no doubt the stories of the American Latino are important and must be told more fully than they have been in the past. I want to commend Senators CORNYN and MENENDEZ on their diligent efforts to get here. I know it has been a long road.

In order to keep this legislation moving forward, I agree with Chairman ROBERTS on the need to state for the record the importance of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's historic main headquarters.

While that building is listed in the bill as a potential location for the museum, the Senate recognizes the extreme imposition this would place on the Department and the people it serves.

As a member of the Appropriations Subcommittee for Agriculture—and that subcommittee's former ranking member—I couldn't agree more with Chairman ROBERTS that the work of the USDA is crucially important to Missouri, to Kansas, to the Nation, and the international community as well. Clearly, that work would be disrupted if the USDA and its staff were forced to relocate.

I join Chairman ROBERTS in encouraging the Smithsonian's board of regents to recognize the role and expanse of the USDA when selecting a location for the museum and to look for a more appropriate site for the museum.

I now yield to the Senior Senator from Texas, an early champion of this legislation, for his remarks.

Mr. CORNYN. Thank you to the senior Senator from Kansas for his leadership over the years and his attention to this bill. I also thank the chairman for holding a hearing and passing this important bill out of his committee.

I know some of our colleagues have concerns about the museum location,

and I can assure them, Congress will have a voice in the site of the museum. Before construction can begin, congressional committees will be consulted on site selection, as detailed in the bill.

The Smithsonian board of regents, which will select the site, is chaired by Supreme Court Chief Justice Roberts and comprises multiple members of Congress, including three sitting Senators, as well as the Vice President.

Congress will also need to appropriate funds, a de facto ratification or rejection of the site selected by the Smithsonian board of regents.

I intend there will be open lines of communication between members of Congress and the Smithsonian board of regents as they undertake this significant project.

It has been estimated if we pass this bill today, the doors to a new museum would not open for at least a decade and more likely not until 2034—so I am eager to get the process moving.

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I appreciate the work of my colleagues for raising the issue of the site of National Museum of the American Latino and for helping to find agreement.

I thank Chairman BLUNT and Senator CORNYN for their commitment. I also thank many of our colleagues who helped us reach this solution today.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, the Senate will soon vote on the conference report for the annual defense policy bill, known as the National Defense Authorization Act or NDAA. Like all conference reports, this is a product of negotiations between the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Producing a conference report takes dedicated negotiators who are willing to make tough compromises. I commend them for their work, and I particularly want to thank my friend, Senator JACK REED, who has shown strong leadership as the ranking Democrat on the Senate Armed Services Committee.

I hope these negotiations will be a good omen for how Congress will work under the incoming Biden administration.

But supporting the process that produced this conference report is very different from supporting the report on its merits.

I have voted against the Senate version of this defense bill twice now, once during the rollcall vote in July and then during a voice vote last month. House negotiators have managed to improve the bill since then, but not so significantly that I am able to support it now.

I want to be clear that I support plenty of provisions in this NDAA. I even wrote or negotiated some of the language to improve the bill.

The bill includes anti-money laundering provisions, which I strongly support. I have twice introduced bipartisan legislation to end the abuse of anonymous shell companies, and I am happy to see the NDAA expand upon my efforts.

The conference report will also set in motion a 3-year process to remove Confederate names from military assets. I would have preferred a shorter timeline, but I am glad that Congress will be taking this overdue step to ensure that military bases do not honor traitors who fought to defend the horrific institution of slavery.

And the conference report also includes my amendments to push the Pentagon toward encrypting its computers and to require the Army to provide a plan to finish cleaning up the former Umatilla Army Depot within 3 years.

But I cannot in good conscience authorize $740 billion in military spending—including roughly $70 billion to continue the forever wars—while Senate Republicans are offering mere crumbs to help folks stay safe from a raging pandemic and help small businesses stay afloat during this unprecedented time.

I said previously that I could not vote for a defense bill with Federal agents actively occupying Portland and treating peaceful protestors like foreign enemies. Donald Trump may have removed much of his occupying force but this bill does nothing to prevent him or any future president from ordering similar abuses.

And I have serious concerns about a provision that will permit the Secretary of the Treasury or the Attorney General to issue subpoenas, with indefinite gag orders, to foreign banks that maintain a correspondent account in the United States.

There may be some limited instances where it may be appropriate to restrict bank employees from notifying account holders about a Federal subpoena to obtain their records, but as a general rule, I oppose indefinite gag orders. I worry this section grants dangerous powers to the executive branch to regulate speech, raising very serious First Amendment and due process concerns. That is why gag orders should not be included automatically with every subpoena and should have an expiration date, so that any restrictions on speech apply no longer than necessary.

I regret that these and other flaws mean that I must continue to oppose this NDAA at this time. I yield the floor with the hope that Republicans will be as willing to provide real help for everyday Americans suffering—particularly during this tough holiday season—as they are to greenlight ever-higher levels of military spending.

RECOGNIZING THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME FOR RECEIVING THE 2020 NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise to honor the United Nations World Food Programme, which is receiving the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize today.

The Nobel Peace Prize is awarded to those ''who shall have done the most, or the best work, for fraternity between nations, for the abolition or reduction of standing armies and for the holding and promotion of peace congresses.''

The World Food Programme, WFP, the largest humanitarian organization focused on eliminating global hunger and increasing food security, truly embodies those ideals.

The organization was awarded the honor for ''its efforts to combat hunger, for its contribution to bettering conditions for peace in conflict-affected areas, and for acting as a driving force in efforts to prevent the use of hunger as a weapon of war and conflict.''

Those efforts, when put into numbers, show just what an enormous impact WFP has as a last line of defense between hungry people and starvation. Each year, the organization provides more than 15 billion meals to 100 million people in more than 80 countries. It was the world's largest nongovernmental provider of school meals, reaching 18 million children in 59 countries in last year.

The logistical challenges of accomplishing this goal may seem overwhelming to most but not to the WFP. The organization has it down to a science. WFP's 18,000 staff has over 5,000 trucks, 120 aircraft, and 20 ships on the move daily, bringing food to those who need it most.

The WFP's executive director, David Beasley, is a good friend of mine. His commitment to serving a higher calling is inspirational. I couldn't be more pleased that the spotlight is pointed on the work of the WFP under David's dedicated leadership.

David will be the first to tell you that despite this honor, the WFP's work is far from complete. After the announcement, he said, ''The good news is we're feeding 80 million people on any given day in 80 countries. The bad news is it's getting worse out there—the famine, the droughts, the conflicts.''

While that assessment is spot-on, I would add one more factor to the list, the coronavirus pandemic. According to the WFP, the COVID–19 pandemic has the potential to double the number of people facing acute hunger to 270 million people. It may also lead to emergence of famine in multiple countries.

The pandemic makes the lifesaving work of the WFP all that much more vital. In a world where 60 percent of people suffering from chronic hunger live in countries affected by violence, additional nutritional access constraints only serve to make food a more powerful weapon of war. The WFP's efforts to overcome that challenge and bring food to the hungry in conflict zones makes the organization well-deserved of the honor of a Nobel Peace Prize.

Eliminating hunger at home and abroad takes an all-hands-on-deck approach. It requires leaders with visionary solutions and supporting team members who are willing to put in the hard work to bring about meaningful change. David Beasley and his team at the WFP embody these principles. I congratulate them and offer my continued support as we work together toward a world where hunger is no longer an issue.

TRIBUTE TO PAT ROBERTS

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, when his official portrait that will hang in the Senate Agriculture Committee hearing room was unveiled last month, Senator PAT ROBERTS said the panel he led so well ''has a long history of caring more about the issues than the ideology, more about the people than the party.''

Those words perfectly describe PAT's philosophy of public service. Throughout his four decades in Congress, this remarkable Kansan has always stood for government that is responsible to the taxpayers and responsive to the needs of the American people. He believes in a legislative process that is open, transparent, and bipartisan.

PAT retires with an extraordinary record of accomplishment. He is the first person in history to have served as chairman of the Agriculture Committees in both the House and the Senate. He is Kansas' longest serving Member of Congress. As the ultimate evidence of the trust the people of his beloved State have in him, PAT has been on the ballot in 24 elections since 1980 and has won every time.

PAT and I were sworn in to the Senate on the same day in January of 1997. It has been an honor to serve alongside this national leader in agriculture, health care, and defense. He is an advocate of a strong education system, free and fair trade policies, increased investment in science and technology, a focused foreign policy, and a strong military.

This effective advocate for our Nation's family farms is a champion for rural America. A recent example is the State Offices of Rural Health Reauthorization Act he introduced and that I cosponsored. This law helps equip rural communities with the resources they need to strengthen their health care delivery systems and improve access to high-quality services for individuals living in rural and underserved areas.

From the U.S. Marine Corps to the U.S. Congress, PAT has served our Nation with uncommon dedication. His wide-ranging accomplishments are united by a commitment to move America forward and empower the American people. I thank him for his service and his friendship and wish him, Frankie, and their family well in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO MARTHA McSALLY

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, in her memoir titled ''Dare to Fly'', Senator Martha McSally tells an especially inspiring story from her Air Force days as the first American woman to fly in combat. This one anecdote reveals the totality of her character.

In September 2005, a routine mission in the skies over Afghanistan suddenly turned into an emergency when a team of U.S. Special Forces were trapped in a canyon and under hostile fire. She raced to the scene only to discover that virtually all of the high-tech electronics for her A–10 Thunderbolt's navigation and weapons systems had failed.

She had a choice to make: Withdraw, wait for backup, and leave the troops in jeopardy, or continue the attack with her skill, determination, and courage replacing the malfunctioning technology. She made the choice that those of us who have had the honor of working with this great leader from Arizona have come to expect.

The full title of Senator McSally's memoir is ''Dare to Fly: Simple Lessons in Never Giving Up.'' From 26 years in the U.S. Air Force, achieving the rank of full colonel and becoming not only the first woman to fly in combat but also the first to command a fighter squadron, to two terms in the House of Representatives, to her service in the Senate, she has done a lot in her remarkable life. Giving up is one thing she has never done.

It has been a pleasure to work with Senator McSally on many issues, from increasing preventive care and treatment for breast cancer to promoting animal welfare. As a champion for the men and women who serve our country in uniform, she led the way in creating a nationwide Veterans Treatment Court Program to provide our heroes with treatment they need to recover from the invisible wounds of war.

Senator McSally has been a strong advocate for Arizona seniors and a dedicated and involved member of the Aging Committee, of which I serve as chairman. Together, we worked to protect older adults from criminals who sought to rob them of their hard-earned savings and introduced two senior fraud bills: the Anti-Spoofing Penalties Modernization Act to combat unwanted robocalls and the Stamp Out Elder Abuse Act to support community efforts to prevent abuse, exploitation, and neglect.

Senator McSally's memoir contains another powerful story. When she was just 12 years old, her father was stricken by illness and had not long to live. He called his young daughter to his bedside and said this to her: ''Make me proud.''

That is another mission this American hero has carried out fully on behalf of the people of Arizona and of our Nation. It makes me proud to have served with Senator Martha McSally, and I wish her all the best in the years to come.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO SUSANA CORDOVA

• Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I rise to commend a great educator, Susana Cordova, for her service to Denver, our schools, and our children. As Susana steps down as superintendent of Denver Public Schools, it is the right time to say thank you and, more, to say how much we love and respect her for her dedication. She has done so much more than give 30 years to the Denver Public Schools.

At every moment of her DPS career, Susana has been an educator's educator—committed to each student, able to see their unique gifts and envision their individual success, and willing to meet them where they are so she could walk alongside them as they learned.

She began as a teacher, first at Denver's Horace Mann Middle School and West High School. There, she taught language arts to students who mostly spoke Spanish at home. She became an assistant principal at Bryant-Webster Elementary School and then a principal at Remington Elementary School, two more schools that served Spanish-speaking families. In her 4 years at Remington, the school saw gains of 33 percent in reading.

In 2002, she joined district leadership and again worked tirelessly to improve outcomes for students. Susana knew that the way to do this was to challenge students academically—to read the poem and write a clear argument about it, to think like a mathematician and show your work, to take courses that earned college credit or offered real workplace experience. Her approach placed high expectations on teachers and principals, not just students. But because she had done the work herself, she was compassionate and always joined with her colleagues learning how to meet those expectations.

In nearly all of these years, DPS improved graduation, literacy, and math rates faster than the State of Colorado. Just as important, achievement gaps narrowed. Throughout Susana's tenure as an instructional leader, DPS focused on improving the academic outcomes of students of color and students from families who qualify for free lunch. She would be the first to say that Denver, like other big-city school systems, has plenty of work left to do. There are still Denver children who might have even greater opportunity when they graduated if they were challenged to read ''Bless Me, Ultima,'' if they had a few more chances to learn how to balance a chemical equation, or if they graduated with a little college credit to help them along the way to earning a college degree.

Susana's commitment to DPS is more than professional. As a student, she attended kindergarten at Denver's Barnum Elementary School. She went on to Kepner Middle School and graduated from Abraham Lincoln High

School. She became the first in her family to go to college. Her roots in DPS span three generations. Her mother, Rita Cordova, attended Denver's Franklin and Greenlee elementary schools, Baker Junior High School, and West High School, before beginning a career as an office professional at Denver's Lake Junior High and then her alma mater, West. Both of Susana and Eric's children, Alex and Carmen, are DPS graduates.

Public education is one generation's commitment of equity, freedom, and prosperity to the generation that follows. Susana's story teaches us what happens when we follow through. Mothers and fathers pass the benefits forward to their daughters and sons. At a community meeting held before she was selected by the Denver Board of Education to become superintendent, she described the promise of public education like this:

> It gave me access and opportunity to a world that didn't exist in my neighborhood. My mother grew up in Denver and went to the Denver public schools, as well. She didn't have access to the kinds of classes I had access to. It leveled the playing field for minority kids like me.

Public education is not a promise that keeps itself. Susana's career in DPS teaches us how much work is needed to make sure we don't drop the ball. We keep the promise one student and one classroom at a time. It takes teachers, principals and district leaders, families, and community members, each willing, like Susana, to do their part with the patience and diligence they would wish for their own child.●

TRIBUTE TO BILL RANEY

● Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, I rise to recognize Bill Raney, a dedicated West Virginian, who is retiring after serving 28 years as president and chief executive officer of the West Virginia Coal Association.

Bill knows the value of coal—to our Appalachian communities, where it puts food on the table; to our State, where it provides tax revenues to pave our roads and fund our schools; and to our Nation, where it has helped power the greatest economic engine the world has ever known for more than a century. He also appreciates the challenges and dangers inherent in producing the black gold that creates all that well-being, starting his career working in public service to protect our miners.

Starting in 1970, Bill—a graduate of his beloved West Virginia University—became familiarized with the coal industry working as a surface mine inspector for the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources Division of Reclamation. In recognition of his service, he was later promoted to assistant chief of that division. Moving to the private sector, Bill then served as vice president of the West Virginia Mining & Reclamation Association from 1977, until being named president of the West Virginia Coal Association in 1992. When the two organizations merged in 2000, he remained president of the newly formed organization, representing the whole of West Virginia's coal industry.

Bill held these leadership positions serving the hard-working coal miners of West Virginia, while also serving his country in the West Virginia Army National Guard. During his time with the Guard, he served in various leadership roles, including commander of the 1092nd Combat Engineer Battalion, commander of the 111th Engineer Group, and special assistant to the Adjutant General at the rank of colonel. Following his personal service, Bill has continued advocating on behalf of our guardsmen as president of the West Virginia National Guard Association and chairman of the West Virginia National Guard Foundation.

Bill's participation in civic organizations extends far beyond the military and the coal industry, as he has served as both chairman and as a current board member of the West Virginia Business & Industry Council; current board member of the West Virginia Youth Leadership Association's Youth in Government Program, former chairman and current board member of the West Virginia Kids Count Fund; advisory member of the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection Advisory Committee; member of the West Virginia University School of Engineering Mining Program Visiting Committee; as an elder at the First Presbyterian Church in Charleston; and volunteering his time with several other organizations. Bill has left an indelible legacy through his commitment to our State and our Nation's military, impacts that will be felt throughout and beyond the coalfields.

Bill Raney's passion for the coal industry and the improvement of the State has earned him numerous honors and awards over the course of his distinguished career. This includes but is not limited to the Distinguished West Virginian Award, the WVU Alumni Association's Most Loyal Alumni Award, the National Multiple Sclerosis Association's Hope Award, and the Lewis McManus Service Award given by the West Virginia Youth in Government Program. Mr. Raney has also been inducted into the West Virginia Coal Hall of Fame and the First Tee Hall of Fame.

It has been an honor to know and work with Bill during his distinguished tenure representing the coal industry and several esteemed civic organizations in West Virginia. He has been a great ally, resource, and friend to me over the years, and I will be forever grateful for his service. I wish him and his wife Pam many years of joy in this new phase of life. It is truly an honor to recognize and congratulate my friend Bill Raney on his well-deserved retirement.●

TRIBUTE TO PETE SFERRAZZA

● Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, today I am honored to recognize former Reno mayor and justice of the peace for the Reno Justice Court, Pete Sferrazza, who retired in October of this year.

Mr. Sferrazza has a long history of public service to the great State of Nevada. He served as Reno's mayor from 1981 until 1995, an unprecedented length of service, and served as a judge on the Reno Justice Court from 2008 until his retirement earlier this year. In the intervening years, Mr. Sferrazza served as county commissioner for Washoe County, from 1998 to 2007.

During his time as mayor and throughout his life of public service, Mr. Sferrazza focused on advancing labor rights and economic prosperity, while promoting the beauty of the Reno community. As mayor, he led the establishment of the City of Reno Arts Commission, as well as the creation of Reno's Victim Advocate Program, which has served as a model for the rest of the State. Mr. Sferrazza was also responsible for helping to preserve the Mt. Rose Wilderness and supporting the iconic Truckee River Walk.

In a time of seemingly stark political divide, Mr. Sferrazza is a shining example of what an elected official can and should be. As county commissioner, he approved a number of expansions of Reno's downtown and helped to consolidate various local emergency services, increasing efficiency and reducing costs. Finally, during his time on the Reno Justice Court, Mr. Sferrazza was elected by his colleagues as president of the American Judges Association, the largest judges' association in the United States. His willingness and desire to help everyone in his community have been crucial to the city's development, especially as the city continues to grow into the 21st century.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Pete Sferrazza as he retires after decades of serving the city of Reno, Washoe County, and the State of Nevada in so many ways. His time in public office has made the Reno-Sparks community stronger and more inclusive for everyone, and I want to thank him for his service and lifelong commitment to leaving the Truckee Meadows a better place than he found it. ●

TRIBUTE TO DOUG MARTENS

● Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week I have the honor of recognizing Doug Martens of Rosebud County for his years of service to his community and being elected to serve as president of the Montana Association of Counties.

Doug raised is family in Montana and is a proud husband, father, and grandfather. Before serving 10 years as a commissioner in Rosebud County, Doug was a fire warden and president of the Montana Fire Wardens Association. Doug is a dedicated public servant, and at the same time, he runs his

family farm and ranch operation outside of Forsyth, MT.

Doug has also been an outspoken advocate for Montana energy and coal jobs. He has been a passionate leader in this space and continues to help educate Montanans on the importance of coal including the jobs it creates and the energy it produces throughout our Nation.

It is my distinct honor to recognize Doug for his lifetime of service to the people of Rosebud County. I have no doubt his dedication and hard work will continue to serve his community and the Montana Association of Counties exceptionally well.●

RECOGNIZING LA CABANITA MEX

● Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, as a member and former chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each month I recognize and celebrate the American entrepreneurial spirit by highlighting the success of a small business in my home State of Idaho. Today I am pleased to honor La Cabanita Mex in Ketchum as the Idaho Small Business of the Month for December 2020.

Growing up, Rodolfo Armenta was captivated by his father's cooking and passion for traditional Mexican cuisine. Rodolfo knew he wanted serve his father's food as a career and dreamed of one day opening up his own Mexican restaurant.

During a visit to Idaho's Wood River Valley, Rodolfo fell in love with the area's natural beauty and tight-knit community and soon relocated his family to the area. After years of hard work and determination, Rodolfo opened La Cabanita in Ketchum where it continues to thrive today.

Since its 2009 opening, La Cabanita has become a beloved institution, garnering accolades for its exceptional food, family atmosphere, and dedicated service to the community. It has received multiple awards, including the gold medal for ''Best Mexican Restaurant'' in the Idaho Mountain Express's Best of Valley Survey for 5 years in a row, and continues to draw in locals and tourists alike.

Thanks to the success of the Ketchum location, Rodolfo opened a second La Cabanita in Bellevue and a bakery in the Wood River Valley, providing dozens of jobs to the local community and giving Idahoans a true sense of the cultural vibrance that surrounds Mexican cuisine.

Congratulations to Rodolfo, his family, and all of the employees of La Cabanita Mex on being selected as the Idaho Small Business of the Month for December 2020. You make our great State proud, and I look forward to your continued growth and success.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Ms. Roberts, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on Finance.

(The message received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:49 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1426. An act to amend the Department of Energy Organization Act to address insufficient compensation of employees and other personnel of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1570. An act to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to waive coinsurance under Medicare for colorectal cancer screening tests, regardless of whether therapeutic intervention is required during the screening, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1966. An act to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to complete a study on barriers to participation in federally funded cancer clinical trials by populations that have been traditionally underrepresented in such trials.

H.R. 3361. An act to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to reauthorize hydroelectric production incentives and hydroelectric efficiency improvement incentives, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3797. An act to amend the Controlled Substances Act to make marijuana accessible for use by qualified marijuana researchers for medical purposes, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5541. An act to amend the Energy Policy Act of 1992 to reauthorize programs to assist consenting Indian Tribes in meeting energy education, planning, and management needs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5758. An act to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to make technical corrections to the energy conservation standard for ceiling fans, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7898. An act to amend the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to consider certain recognized security practices of covered entities and business associates when making certain determinations, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1570. An act to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to waive coinsurance under Medicare for colorectal cancer screening tests, regardless of whether therapeutic intervention is required during the screening, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 1966. An act to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to complete a study on barriers to participation in federally funded cancer clinical trials by populations that have been traditionally underrepresented in such trials; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 5541. An act to amend the Energy Policy Act of 1992 to reauthorize programs to assist consenting Indian Tribes in meeting energy education, planning, and management needs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

H.R. 5758. An act to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to make technical corrections to the energy conservation standard for ceiling fans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 1426. An act to amend the Department of Energy Organization Act to address insufficient compensation of employees and other personnel of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3361. An act to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to reauthorize hydroelectric production incentives and hydroelectric efficiency improvement incentives, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–6076. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), transmitting, pursuant to law, a semiannual report entitled, ''Acceptance of Contributions for Defense Programs, Projects, and Activities; Defense Cooperation Account'' and a semiannual listing of personal property contributed by coalition partners; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–6077. A communication from the Secretary of the Commission, Division of Market Oversight, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Real-Time Public Reporting Requirements'' (RIN3038–AE60) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–6078. A communication from the Secretary of the Commission, Division of Market Oversight, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Swap Data Recordkeeping and Reporting Requirements'' (RIN3038–AE31) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–6079. A communication from the Secretary of the Commission, Division of Market Oversight, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendments to the Commission's Regulations Relating to Certain Swap Data Repository and Data Reporting Requirements'' (RIN3038–AE32) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–6080. A communication from the Acting Deputy Director of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Interim Final Rule—Temporary

Asset Thresholds'' (RIN3064–AF67) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 8, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–6081. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Test Methods and Performance Specifications for Air Emission Sources; Correction'' (FRL No. 10016–14–OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 8, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6082. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Partial Approval and Partial Disapproval; California; San Diego'' (FRL No. 10016–79–Region 9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 8, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6083. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulations, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Dry Storage and Transportation of High Burnup Spent Nuclear Fuel'' (NUREG–2224) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 8, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6084. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Regulatory Guides (RG) 5.76, Revision 1, ''Physical Protection Programs at Nuclear Power Reactors (SGI)'' '' received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 8, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6085. A communication from the Director of the Legal Processing Division, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Unrelated Business Taxable Income Separately Computed for Each Trade or Business'' ((RIN1545–BO79) (TD 9933)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 8, 2020; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–6086. A communication from the Director of the Legal Processing Division, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Coordination of Extraordinary Disposition and Disqualified Basis Rules'' ((RIN1545–BP57) (TD 9934)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 8, 2020; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–6087. A communication from the Director of the Legal Processing Division, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Withholding of Tax and Information Reporting with Respect to Interests in Partnerships Engaged in a U.S. Trade or Business'' (RIN1545–BO60) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 8, 2020; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–6088. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Report on the Twelfth Review of the Backlog of Postmarketing Requirements and Commitments''; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–6089. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendments to the HHS-operated Risk Adjustment Data Validation (HHS–RADV) under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act's HHS-operated Risk Adjustment Program (CMS–9913-F)'' (RIN0938–AU23) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 8, 2020; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–6090. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Office of the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for the Department's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–6091. A communication from the Chairman, Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–6092. A communication from the Board Members of the Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2020 through September 30, 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–6093. A communication from the Chair, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–6094. A communication from the Director of the Legal Processing Division, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Implementation of the CARES Act Extended January 1, 2021 Due Date for Contributions to Defined Benefit Plans'' (Notice 2020–82) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 8, 2020; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–6095. A communication from the Director of the Legal Processing Division, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''2020 Required Amendments List for Qualified Retirement Plans and Section 403(b) Retirement Plans'' (Notice 2020–83) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 8, 2020; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–6096. A communication from the Director of the Legal Processing Division, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revenue Ruling: 2020–25'' (Rev. Rul. 2020–25) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 8, 2020; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–6097. A communication from the Director of the Legal Processing Division, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Guidance on the Premium Tax Credit and the Suspension of Personal Exemption Deduction'' (TD 9912) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 8, 2020; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–6098. A communication from the Associate Administrator for Policy, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Hours of Service of Drivers; Definition of Agricultural Commodity'' (RIN2126–AC24) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 8, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6099. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Sustainment), transmitting, pursuant to law, an interim response to a delay in meeting the reporting requirement on a report to Congress on any negotiated comprehensive subcontracting plan for Fiscal Year 2019 that the Secretary determines did not meet the subcontracting goals negotiated in the plan for the prior fiscal year; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–6100. A communication from the Program Analyst, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Compliance'' (RIN0596–AD31) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–6101. A communication from the Secretary of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Customer Margin Rules Relating to Security Futures'' (RIN3038–AE88) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petition or memorial was laid before the Senate and was referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM–265. A petition from a citizen of the State of Texas relative to credit inquiries; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. HOEVEN, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2610. A bill to reauthorize certain programs under the Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs of the Department of Energy, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 116–310).

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. GRAHAM for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Thomas L. Kirsch II, of Indiana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit.

Katherine A. Crytzer, of Tennessee, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Tennessee.

Joseph Dawson III, of South Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina.

Charles Edward Atchley, Jr., of Tennessee, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Tennessee.

Zachary N. Somers, of the District of Columbia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first

and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 4997. A bill to authorize the tenth general capital increase for the Inter-American Development Bank and to strengthen recovery efforts in Latin America and the Caribbean related to the COVID–19 pandemic, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. COTTON:

S. 4998. A bill to amend part D of title IV of the Social Security Act to allow States to receive Federal matching payments for mandatory work activity programs for noncustodial parents, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HAWLEY:

S. 4999. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide additional recovery rebates to individuals; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. CANTWELL, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 5000. A bill to provide support with respect to the prevention of, treatment for, and recovery from, substance use disorder; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CARDIN:

S. 5001. A bill to amend the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to fund job-creating improvements in energy and resiliency for Federal buildings managed by the General Services Administration, to enable a portfolio of clean buildings by 2030, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN:

S. 5002. A bill to improve the quality, appropriateness, and effectiveness of diagnosis in health care, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WICKER:

S. 5003. A bill to protect the rights of student athletes, to provide for transparency and accountability with respect to student athlete name, image, and likeness agreements, and to establish an independent entity for intercollegiate athletics, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 5004. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to provide funding to public housing agencies for the purpose of providing tenant-based assistance to individuals experiencing an economic crisis or natural disaster, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN:

S. 5005. A bill to require pension plans subject to the requirements of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to establish minimum standards to address the threat from investments that finance Communist Chinese military companies; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CRUZ:

S. 5006. A bill to provide for the repatriation to the United States for historical and educational purposes of military decorations, medals, and related items that are located outside the United States, to provide for the imposition of sanctions in connection with trade in military medals and decorations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. COTTON, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 5007. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for an increase in payment under part B of the Medicare program for certain services in response to COVID–19; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. 5008. A bill to require notification of incidents at agencies involving sensitive personal information, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. MORAN:

S. 5009. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to address the eligibility for certain small businesses and organizations to receive loans under the Paycheck Protection Program; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself and Ms. ERNST):

S. 5010. A bill to establish the Servicemembers and Veterans Initiative within the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. Res. 799. A resolution designating December 2020 as ''National Impaired Driving Prevention Month'' ; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 959

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 959, a bill to establish in the Smithsonian Institution a comprehensive women's history museum, and for other purposes.

S. 2882

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2882, a bill to establish a community wildfire defense grant program, and for other purposes.

S. 3595

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3595, a bill to require a longitudinal study on the impact of COVID–19.

S. 4134

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4134, a bill to establish a demonstration project to increase access to biosimilar products under the Medicare program.

S. 4433

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4433, a bill to authorize the National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes.

S. 4629

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4629, a bill to address issues involving the People's Republic of China.

S. 4840

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4840, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require the inclusion of certain audio-only diagnoses in the determination of risk adjustment for Medicare Advantage plans, and for other purposes.

S. 4867

At the request of Mr. COONS, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Georgia (Mrs. LOEFFLER) were added as cosponsors of S. 4867, a bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to support research on, and expanded access to, investigational drugs for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, and for other purposes.

S. 4898

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) were added as cosponsors of S. 4898, a bill to amend title VI of the Social Security Act to extend the period during which States, Indian Tribes, and local governments may use Coronavirus Relief Fund payments.

S. 4927

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4927, a bill to exclude EIDL advance amounts from the calculation of loan forgiveness under the paycheck protection program, and for other purposes.

S. 4932

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4932, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure appropriate global surgical package code values in the Medicare program.

S. 4935

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) were added as cosponsors of S. 4935, a bill to provide continued assistance to unemployed workers.

S. 4947

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4947, a bill to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to require annual lease sales in the Gulf of Mexico region of the outer Continental Shelf, and for other purposes.

S. 4995

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms.

COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4995, a bill to amend the Commodity Exchange Act to modify the Commodity Futures Trading Commission Customer Protection Fund, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 754

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 754, a resolution requesting information on the Government of Azerbaijan's human rights practices pursuant to section 502B(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

S. RES. 755

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 755, a resolution requesting information on the Government of Turkey's human rights practices pursuant to section 502B(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

S. RES. 794

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 794, a resolution urging the European Parliament to exempt certain technologies used to detect child sexual exploitation from European Union ePrivacy directive.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 799—DESIGNATING DECEMBER 2020 AS ''NATIONAL IMPAIRED DRIVING PREVENTION MONTH''

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mr. CORNYN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 799

Whereas, in 2018, the most recent data available, the United States recorded 10,511 deaths from drunk driving, of whom 231 were children aged 14 and under;

Whereas, in 2018, 29 percent of all fatal motor vehicle crashes involved alcohol-impaired driving;

Whereas, between December 16, 2020, and January 1, 2021, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and partnering State and local law enforcement agencies will engage in high visibility mobilization to prevent impaired driving;

Whereas, in 2018, 42 percent of all impaired driving cases evaluated by drug recognition experts found multi-substance impairment, according to the International Association of Chiefs of Police;

Whereas, in 2019, nearly 20,000,000 people aged 16 and older in the United States drove under the influence of alcohol;

Whereas, in 2019, nearly 13,700,000 people aged 16 and older in the United States drove under the influence of cocaine (including crack), heroin, hallucinogens, inhalants, methamphetamine, or marijuana, which is an 8 percent increase compared to 2018;

Whereas the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety found that new technologies that prevent alcohol-impaired drivers from operating vehicles can save 9,000 lives per year and that driver assistance systems, which help prevent human errors on the road, can potentially reduce the number of crashes and their severity;

Whereas, according to Mothers Against Drunk Driving, the use of ignition interlock devices prevented more than 3,000,000 attempts of alcohol-impaired driving between 2006 and 2018; and

Whereas the National Transportation Safety Board included ending alcohol and other drug-impaired driving on its Most Wanted List of Transportation Safety Improvements for 2019–2020: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the efforts of law enforcement agencies and officers to enforce impaired driving laws;

(2) supports national and State high visibility enforcement campaigns, such as *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over*;

(3) recognizes the need for greater research on how drugs affect and, in some cases, impair an individual's ability to operate a motor vehicle;

(4) recognizes that technological solutions have the potential to save thousands of lives each year;

(5) supports programs to better collect data on impaired driving, including data on illicit drug use by drivers;

(6) supports programs to train law enforcement officials on detecting and stopping impaired driving; and

(7) designates December 2020 as ''National Impaired Driving Prevention Month''.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2698. Mr. HAWLEY proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1031, to implement recommendations related to the safety of amphibious passenger vessels, and for other purposes.

SA 2699. Mr. CORNYN (for Mr. ALEXANDER) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 1520, to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the publication of a list of licensed biological products, and for other purposes.

SA 2700. Mr. CORNYN (for Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. CARDIN)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1310, to strengthen participation of elected national legislators in the activities of the Organization of American States and reaffirm United States support for Organization of American States human rights and anti-corruption initiatives, and for other purposes.

SA 2701. Mr. SANDERS (for himself and Mr. HAWLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 8900, making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2021, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2702. Ms. MURKOWSKI (for Mr. MORAN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 633, to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the members of the Women's Army Corps who were assigned to the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, known as the ''Six Triple Eight''.

SA 2703. Ms. MURKOWSKI (for Mrs. GILLIBRAND) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 1925, to designate the Manhattan Campus of the New York Harbor Health Care System of the Department of Veterans Affairs as the ''Margaret Cochran Corbin Campus of the New York Harbor Health Care System''.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2698. Mr. HAWLEY proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1031, to implement recommendations related to the safety of amphibious passenger vessels, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Duck Boat Safety Enhancement Act of 2020''.

SEC. 2. SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR AMPHIBIOUS PASSENGER VESSELS.

(a) SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS.—

(1) BUOYANCY REQUIREMENTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of completion of a Coast Guard contracted assessment by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine of the technical feasibility, practicality, and safety benefits of providing reserve buoyancy through passive means on amphibious passenger vessels, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating may initiate a rulemaking to prescribe in regulations that operators of amphibious passenger vessels provide reserve buoyancy for such vessels through passive means, including watertight compartmentalization, built-in flotation, or such other means as the Secretary may specify in the regulations, in order to ensure that such vessels remain afloat and upright in the event of flooding, including when carrying a full complement of passengers and crew.

(2) INTERIM REQUIREMENTS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall initiate a rulemaking to implement interim safety policies or other measures to require that operators of amphibious passenger vessels operating in waters subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, as defined in section 2.38 of title 33, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation) comply with the following:

(A) Remove the canopies of such vessels for waterborne operations, or install in such vessels a canopy that does not restrict either horizontal or vertical escape by passengers in the event of flooding or sinking.

(B) If the canopy is removed from such vessel pursuant to subparagraph (A), require that all passengers don a Coast Guard type-approved personal flotation device before the onset of waterborne operations of such vessel.

(C) Install in such vessels at least one independently powered electric bilge pump that is capable of dewatering such vessels at the volume of the largest remaining penetration in order to supplement the vessel's existing bilge pump required under section 182.520 of title 46, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation).

(D) Verify the watertight integrity of such vessel in the water at the outset of each waterborne departure of such vessel.

(b) REGULATIONS REQUIRED.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall initiate a rulemaking for amphibious passenger vessels operating in waters subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, as defined in section 2.38 of title 33, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation). The regulations shall include, at a minimum, the following:

(1) SEVERE WEATHER EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS.—Requirements that an operator of an amphibious passenger vessel—

(A) check and notate in the vessel's logbook the National Weather Service forecast before getting underway and periodically while underway;

(B) in the case of a watch or warning issued for wind speeds exceeding the wind speed equivalent used to certify the stability of an amphibious passenger vessel, proceed to the nearest harbor or safe refuge; and

(C) maintain and monitor a weather monitor radio receiver at the operator station that may be automatically activated by the

warning alarm device of the National Weather Service.

(2) PASSENGER SAFETY.—Requirements—

(A) concerning whether personal flotation devices should be required for the duration of an amphibious passenger vessel's waterborne transit, which shall be considered and determined by the Secretary;

(B) that operators of amphibious passenger vessels inform passengers that seat belts may not be worn during waterborne operations;

(C) that before the commencement of waterborne operations, a crew member visually check that each passenger has unbuckled the passenger's seatbelt; and

(D) that operators or crew maintain a log recording the actions described in subparagraphs (B) and (C).

(3) TRAINING.—Requirement for annual training for operators and crew of amphibious passengers vessels, including—

(A) training for personal flotation and seat belt requirements, verifying the integrity of the vessel at the onset of each waterborne departure, identification of weather hazards, and use of National Weather Service resources prior to operation; and

(B) training for crewmembers to respond to emergency situations, including flooding, engine compartment fires, man overboard situations, and in water emergency egress procedures.

(4) RECOMMENDATIONS FROM REPORTS.—Requirements to address recommendations from the following reports, as practicable and to the extent that such recommendations are under the jurisdiction of the Coast Guard:

(A) The National Transportation Safety Board's Safety Recommendation Reports on the Amphibious Passenger Vessel incidents in Table Rock, Missouri, Hot Springs, Arkansas, and Seattle, Washington.

(B) The Coast Guard's Marine Investigation Board reports on the Stretch Duck 7 sinkings at Table Rock, Missouri, and the Miss Majestic sinking near Hot Springs, Arkansas.

(5) INTERIM REQUIREMENTS.—The interim requirements described in subsection (a)(2), as appropriate.

(c) PROHIBITION ON OPERATION OF NONCOMPLIANT VESSELS.—Commencing as of the date specified by the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating pursuant to subsection (d), any amphibious passenger vessel whose configuration or operation does not comply with the requirements under subsection (a)(2) (or subsection (a)(1), if prescribed) may not operate in waters subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, as defined in section 2.38 of title 33, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation).

(d) DEADLINE FOR COMPLIANCE.—The regulations and interim requirements described in subsections (a) and (b) shall require compliance with the requirements in the regulations not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, as the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating may specify in the regulations.

(e) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the promulgation of the regulations required under subsection (a), the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall provide a report to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives regarding the status of the implementation of the requirements included in such regulations.

SA 2699. Mr. CORNYN (for Mr. ALEXANDER) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 1520, to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the publication of a list of licensed biological products, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

The Act may be cited as the ''Purple Book Continuity Act of 2020''.

SEC. 2. BIOLOGICAL PRODUCT PATENT TRANSPARENCY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 351(k) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 262(k)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(9) PUBLIC LISTING.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—

''(i) INITIAL PUBLICATION.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Purple Book Continuity Act of 2020, the Secretary shall publish and make available to the public in a searchable, electronic format—

''(I) a list of each biological product, by nonproprietary name (proper name), for which, as of such date of enactment, a biologics license under subsection (a) or this subsection is in effect, or that, as of such date of enactment, is deemed to be licensed under this section pursuant to section 7002(e)(4) of the Biologics Price Competition and Innovation Act of 2009;

''(II) the date of licensure of the marketing application and the application number; and

''(III) with respect to each biological product described in subclause (I), the licensure status, and, as available, the marketing status.

''(ii) REVISIONS.—Every 30 days after the publication of the first list under clause (i), the Secretary shall revise the list to include each biological product which has been licensed under subsection (a) or this subsection during the 30-day period or deemed licensed under this section pursuant to section 7002(e)(4) of the Biologics Price Competition and Innovation Act of 2009.

''(iii) PATENT INFORMATION.—Not later than 30 days after a list of patents under subsection (l)(3)(A), or a supplement to such list under subsection (l)(7), has been provided by the reference product sponsor to the subsection (k) applicant respecting a biological product included on the list published under this subparagraph, the reference product sponsor shall provide such list of patents (or supplement thereto) and their corresponding expiry dates to the Secretary, and the Secretary shall, in revisions made under clause (ii), include such information for such biological product. Within 30 days of providing any subsequent or supplemental list of patents to any subsequent subsection (k) applicant under subsection (l)(3)(A) or (l)(7), the reference product sponsor shall update the information provided to the Secretary under this clause with any additional patents from such subsequent or supplemental list and their corresponding expiry dates.

''(iv) LISTING OF EXCLUSIVITIES.—For each biological product included on the list published under this subparagraph, the Secretary shall specify each exclusivity period under paragraph (6) or paragraph (7) for which the Secretary has determined such biological product to be eligible and that has not concluded.

''(B) REVOCATION OR SUSPENSION OF LICENSE.—If the license of a biological product is determined by the Secretary to have been revoked or suspended for safety, purity, or potency reasons, it may not be published in the list under subparagraph (A). If such revocation or suspension occurred after inclusion of such biological product in the list published under subparagraph (A), the reference product sponsor shall notify the Secretary that—

''(i) the biological product shall be immediately removed from such list for the same period as the revocation or suspension; and

''(ii) a notice of the removal shall be published in the Federal Register.''.

(b) REVIEW AND REPORT ON TYPES OF INFORMATION TO BE LISTED.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall—

(1) solicit public comment regarding the type of information, if any, that should be added to or removed from the list required by paragraph (9) of section 351(k) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 262(k)), as added by subsection (a); and

(2) transmit to Congress an evaluation of such comments, including any recommendations about the types of information that should be added to or removed from the list.

SA 2700. Mr. CORNYN (for Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. CARDIN)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1310, to strengthen participation of elected national legislators in the activities of the Organization of American States and reaffirm United States support for Organization of American States human rights and anti-corruption initiatives, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Organization of American States Legislative Engagement Act of 2020''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The Charter of the Organization of American States establishes that ''representative democracy is an indispensable condition for the stability, peace and development of the region''.

(2) Article 2 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter of the Organization of American States affirms that ''the effective exercise of representative democracy is the basis for the rule of law and of the constitutional regimes of the member states of the Organization of American States''.

(3) Article 26 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter states that ''the OAS will continue to carry out programs and activities designed to promote democratic principles and practices and strengthen a democratic culture in the Hemisphere''.

(4) In accordance with the OAS Charter and the Inter-American Democratic Charter, the OAS General Assembly, OAS Permanent Council, and OAS Secretariat have established a wide range of cooperative agreements with domestic and international organizations, including national legislative institutions.

(5) In 2004, OAS General Assembly Resolution 2044 (XXXIV–O/04) appealed for the ''strengthening of legislatures, as well as inter-parliamentary cooperation on key items of the inter-American agenda, with a view, in particular, to generating initiatives to fight corruption, poverty, inequality, and social exclusion''.

(6) In 2005, OAS General Assembly Resolution 2095 (XXXV–O/05) called on the OAS Secretariat to ''invite [. . .] the presidents or speakers of the national legislative institutions of the Americas, i.e., congresses, parliaments, or national assemblies, [. . .] to attend a special meeting of the Permanent Council [. . .] for the initiation of a dialogue on topics on the hemispheric agenda''.

(7) In 2014 and 2015, the OAS Secretariat expanded its engagement with elected national

legislators from OAS member states by convening two meetings of presidents of national legislatures, first in Lima, Peru and subsequently in Santiago, Chile.

(8) However, no permanent procedures exist to facilitate the participation of elected national legislators from OAS member states in OAS activities.

(9) The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Parliamentary Assembly has proven successful at strengthening inter-parliamentary cooperation among its member states.

SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is that sense of Congress that—

(1) elected national legislators play an essential role in the exercise of representative democracy in the Americas, including by—

(A) promoting economic freedom and respect for property rights;

(B) promoting the rule of law and combating corruption;

(C) defending human rights and fundamental freedoms; and

(D) advancing the principles and practices expressed in the Charter of the Organization of American States, the American Declaration on the Rights and Duties of Man, and the Inter-American Democratic Charter;

(2) establishing procedures and mechanisms to facilitate the participation of elected national legislators from OAS member states in OAS activities could contribute to the promotion of democratic principles and practices and strengthen a democratic culture in the Western Hemisphere;

(3) increasing and strengthening the participation of elected national legislators from OAS member states in OAS activities could advance the principles and proposals expressed in section 4 of the Organization of American States Revitalization and Reform Act of 2013 (Public Law 113–41; 127 Stat. 549);

(4) the OAS General Assembly, OAS Permanent Council, and OAS Secretariat should take steps to facilitate greater participation of elected national legislators from OAS member states in OAS activities;

(5) the OAS Permanent Council resolutions titled ''Guidelines for the Participation of Civil Society in OAS Activities'' and ''Strategies for Increasing and Strengthening Participation by Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities'' should serve as important references for efforts to bolster the participation of elected national legislators from OAS member states in OAS activities; and

(6) the successful experience of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Parliamentary Assembly should serve as a model to the OAS in creating a similar mechanism.

SEC. 4. STRENGTHENING PARTICIPATION OF ELECTED NATIONAL LEGISLATORS AT THE OAS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, acting through the United States Mission to the Organization of American States, should use the voice and vote of the United States to support the creation of procedures for the Organization of American States that—

(1) enhance the participation of democratically elected national legislators from OAS member state countries in OAS activities that advance the principles of the Inter-American Democratic Charter and the core values of the OAS consistent with the principles and proposals expressed in section 4 of the Organization of American States Revitalization and Reform Act of 2013 (Public Law 113–41; 127 Stat. 549);

(2) create an annual forum for democratically elected national legislatures from OAS member states to discuss issues of hemispheric importance, including regional efforts to defend human rights and combat transnational criminal activities, corruption, and impunity;

(3) permit elected national legislators from OAS member states to make presentations, contribute information, and provide expert advice, as appropriate, to the OAS Secretariat, OAS Permanent Council, and OAS General Assembly about OAS activities on issues of hemispheric importance;

(4) lead to the creation of a mechanism to regularly facilitate the participation of elected national legislators in OAS activities; and

(5) reinforce OAS Secretariat programs that provide technical assistance for the modernization and institutional strengthening of national legislatures from OAS member states.

(b) EXPENSES.—The Secretary of State, acting through the United States Mission to the Organization of American States, as appropriate, shall seek to ensure that expenses related to the procedures set forth in this Act do not increase member quotas, assessed fees, or voluntary contributions and that the Secretariat of the OAS shall seek to ensure shared financial responsibilities among the member states in facilitating the financial support necessary to carry out this initiative.

SEC. 5. SUPPORT FOR OAS HUMAN RIGHTS AND ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVES.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the efforts of the OAS Secretary General and Secretariat to combat corruption and impunity in the Americas represent important contributions to strengthening the rule of law and democratic governance in the Americas; and

(2) the United States should support efforts to ensure the effectiveness and independence of OAS initiatives to combat corruption and impunity in the Americas.

(b) ANTI-CORRUPTION AND HUMAN RIGHTS PROMOTION STRATEGY.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of the Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives a strategy for supporting OAS anti-corruption and human rights promotion efforts. The strategy should include—

(1) an assessment of United States programs, activities, and initiatives with the OAS to support anti-corruption and human rights promotion in the Americas;

(2) a summary of the steps taken by the United States Mission to the OAS to strengthen anti-corruption and anti-impunity efforts in the Americas;

(3) an assessment of necessary reforms and initiatives to prioritize and reinforce the OAS Secretary General and Secretariat's efforts to advance human rights and combat corruption and impunity in the Americas;

(4) a detailed plan to facilitate increased OAS collaboration, as appropriate, with relevant stakeholders, including elected national legislators and civil society, in support of an approach to promote human rights and combat transnational criminal activities, corruption, and impunity in the Americas; and

(5) a detailed plan for implementing the strategy set forth in this section of the Act.

SEC. 6. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on OAS processes, initiatives, and reforms undertaken to implement section 4, actions taken to implement the strategy required under section 5(b), and steps taken to implement the Organization of American States Revitalization and Reform Act of 2013 (Public Law 113–41). The report should include—

(1) an analysis of the progress made by the OAS to adopt and effectively implement reforms and initiatives to advance human rights and combat corruption and impunity in the Americas; and

(2) a detailed assessment of OAS efforts to increase stakeholder engagement to advance human rights and combat corruption and impunity in the Americas.

(b) BRIEFINGS.—Not later than one year after the Secretary of State submits the report required under subsection (a), and annually thereafter for two additional years, the Secretary shall provide to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives a briefing on the information required to be included in such report.

SEC. 7. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON ELECTED NATIONAL LEGISLATOR.

It is the sense of Congress that an elected national legislator participating in the activities outlined in this Act should be an individual that—

(1) was elected as a result of periodic, free and fair elections; and

(2) is not known to be under investigation or convicted for corruption or transnational criminal activities, including trafficking of people, goods, or illicit narcotics, money-laundering, terrorist financing, acts of terrorism, campaign finance violations, bribery, or extortion.

SA 2701. Mr. SANDERS (for himself and Mr. HAWLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 8900, making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2021, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. ADDITIONAL RECOVERY REBATES FOR INDIVIDUALS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter B of chapter 65 of subtitle F of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by inserting after section 6428 the following new section:

''SEC. 6428A. ADDITIONAL RECOVERY REBATES FOR INDIVIDUALS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—In the case of an eligible individual, there shall be allowed as a credit against the tax imposed by subtitle A for the first taxable year beginning in 2020 an amount equal to the sum of—

''(1) $1,200 ($2,400 in the case of eligible individuals filing a joint return), plus

''(2) an amount equal to the product of $500 multiplied by the number of dependents (as defined in section 152) of the taxpayer.

''(b) TREATMENT OF CREDIT.—The credit allowed by subsection (a) shall be treated as allowed by subpart C of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1.

''(c) LIMITATION BASED ON ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME.—The amount of the credit allowed by subsection (a) (determined without regard to this subsection and subsection (e)) shall be reduced (but not below zero) by 5 percent of so much of the taxpayer's adjusted gross income as exceeds—

''(1) $150,000 in the case of a joint return,

''(2) $112,500 in the case of a head of household, and

''(3) $75,000 in the case of a taxpayer not described in paragraph (1) or (2).

''(d) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.—For purposes of this section, the term 'eligible individual' means any individual other than—

''(1) any nonresident alien individual,

''(2) any individual with respect to whom a deduction under section 151 is allowable to

another taxpayer for a taxable year beginning in the calendar year in which the individual's taxable year begins, and

''(3) an estate or trust.

''(e) COORDINATION WITH ADVANCE REFUNDS OF CREDIT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The amount of credit which would (but for this paragraph) be allowable under this section shall be reduced (but not below zero) by the aggregate refunds and credits made or allowed to the taxpayer under subsection (f). Any failure to so reduce the credit shall be treated as arising out of a mathematical or clerical error and assessed according to section 6213(b)(1).

''(2) JOINT RETURNS.—In the case of a refund or credit made or allowed under subsection (f) with respect to a joint return, half of such refund or credit shall be treated as having been made or allowed to each individual filing such return.

''(f) ADVANCE REFUNDS AND CREDITS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (5), each individual who was an eligible individual for such individual's first taxable year beginning in 2019 shall be treated as having made a payment against the tax imposed by chapter 1 for such taxable year in an amount equal to the advance refund amount for such taxable year.

''(2) ADVANCE REFUND AMOUNT.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the advance refund amount is the amount that would have been allowed as a credit under this section for such taxable year if this section (other than subsection (e) and this subsection) had applied to such taxable year.

''(3) TIMING AND MANNER OF PAYMENTS.—

''(A) TIMING.—The Secretary shall, subject to the provisions of this title, refund or credit any overpayment attributable to this section as rapidly as possible. No refund or credit shall be made or allowed under this subsection after December 31, 2021.

''(B) DELIVERY OF PAYMENTS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary may certify and disburse refunds payable under this subsection electronically to any account to which the payee authorized, on or after January 1, 2018, the delivery of a refund of taxes under this title or of a Federal payment (as defined in section 3332 of title 31, United States Code).

''(C) WAIVER OF CERTAIN RULES.—Notwithstanding section 3325 of title 31, United States Code, or any other provision of law, with respect to any payment of a refund under this subsection, a disbursing official in the executive branch of the United States Government may modify payment information received from an officer or employee described in section 3325(a)(1)(B) of such title for the purpose of facilitating the accurate and efficient delivery of such payment. Except in cases of fraud or reckless neglect, no liability under sections 3325, 3527, 3528, or 3529 of title 31, United States Code, shall be imposed with respect to payments made under this subparagraph.

''(4) NO INTEREST.—No interest shall be allowed on any overpayment attributable to this section.

''(5) ALTERNATE TAXABLE YEAR.—In the case of an individual who, at the time of any determination made pursuant to paragraph (3), has not filed a tax return for the year described in paragraph (1), the Secretary may—

''(A) apply such paragraph by substituting '2018' for '2019', and

''(B) if the individual has not filed a tax return for such individual's first taxable year beginning in 2018, use information with respect to such individual for calendar year 2019 provided in—

''(i) Form SSA–1099, Social Security Benefit Statement, or

''(ii) Form RRB–1099, Social Security Equivalent Benefit Statement.

''(6) PAYMENT TO REPRESENTATIVE PAYEES AND FIDUCIARIES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any individual for which payment information is provided to the Secretary by the Commissioner of Social Security, the Railroad Retirement Board, or the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the payment by the Secretary under paragraph (3) with respect to such individual may be made to such individual's representative payee or fiduciary and the entire payment shall be—

''(i) provided to the individual who is entitled to the payment, or

''(ii) used only for the benefit of the individual who is entitled to the payment.

''(B) APPLICATION OF ENFORCEMENT PROVISIONS.—

''(i) In the case of a payment described in subparagraph (A) which is made with respect to a social security beneficiary or a supplemental security income recipient, section 1129(a)(3) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1320a–8(a)(3)) shall apply to such payment in the same manner as such section applies to a payment under title II or XVI of such Act.

''(ii) In the case of a payment described in subparagraph (A) which is made with respect to a railroad retirement beneficiary, section 13 of the Railroad Retirement Act (45 U.S.C. 231l) shall apply to such payment in the same manner as such section applies to a payment under such Act.

''(iii) In the case of a payment described in subparagraph (A) which is made with respect to a veterans beneficiary, sections 5502, 6106, and 6108 of title 38, United States Code, shall apply to such payment in the same manner as such sections apply to a payment under such title.

''(7) NOTICE TO TAXPAYER.—Not later than 15 days after the date on which the Secretary distributed any payment to an eligible taxpayer pursuant to this subsection, notice shall be sent by mail to such taxpayer's last known address. Such notice shall indicate the method by which such payment was made, the amount of such payment, and a phone number for the appropriate point of contact at the Internal Revenue Service to report any failure to receive such payment.

''(g) IDENTIFICATION NUMBER REQUIREMENT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—No credit shall be allowed under subsection (a) to an eligible individual who does not include on the return of tax for the taxable year—

''(A) such individual's valid identification number,

''(B) in the case of a joint return, the valid identification number of such individual's spouse, and

''(C) in the case of any dependent taken into account under subsection (a)(2), the valid identification number of such dependent.

''(2) VALID IDENTIFICATION NUMBER.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the term 'valid identification number' means a social security number (as such term is defined in section 24(h)(7)).

''(B) ADOPTION TAXPAYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER.—For purposes of paragraph (1)(C), in the case of a dependent who is adopted or placed for adoption, the term 'valid identification number' shall include the adoption taxpayer identification number of such dependent.

''(3) SPECIAL RULE FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.—Paragraph (1)(B) shall not apply in the case where at least 1 spouse was a member of the Armed Forces of the United States at any time during the taxable year and at least 1 spouse satisfies paragraph (1)(A).

''(4) MATHEMATICAL OR CLERICAL ERROR AUTHORITY.—Any omission of a correct valid identification number required under this subsection shall be treated as a mathematical or clerical error for purposes of applying section 6213(g)(2) to such omission.

''(h) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall prescribe such regulations or other guidance as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this section, including any such measures as are deemed appropriate to avoid allowing multiple credits or rebates to a taxpayer.''.

(b) ADMINISTRATIVE AMENDMENTS.—

(1) DEFINITION OF DEFICIENCY.—Section 6211(b)(4)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking ''and 6428'' and inserting ''6428, and 6428A''.

(2) MATHEMATICAL OR CLERICAL ERROR AUTHORITY.—Section 6213(g)(2)(L) of such Code is amended by striking ''or 6428'' and inserting ''6428, or 6428A''.

(c) TREATMENT OF POSSESSIONS.—

(1) PAYMENTS TO POSSESSIONS.—

(A) MIRROR CODE POSSESSION.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall pay to each possession of the United States which has a mirror code tax system amounts equal to the loss (if any) to that possession by reason of the amendments made by this section. Such amounts shall be determined by the Secretary of the Treasury based on information provided by the government of the respective possession.

(B) OTHER POSSESSIONS.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall pay to each possession of the United States which does not have a mirror code tax system amounts estimated by the Secretary of the Treasury as being equal to the aggregate benefits (if any) that would have been provided to residents of such possession by reason of the amendments made by this section if a mirror code tax system had been in effect in such possession. The preceding sentence shall not apply unless the respective possession has a plan, which has been approved by the Secretary of the Treasury, under which such possession will promptly distribute such payments to its residents.

(2) COORDINATION WITH CREDIT ALLOWED AGAINST UNITED STATES INCOME TAXES.—No credit shall be allowed against United States income taxes under section 6428A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (as added by this section) to any person—

(A) to whom a credit is allowed against taxes imposed by the possession by reason of the amendments made by this section, or

(B) who is eligible for a payment under a plan described in paragraph (1)(B).

(3) DEFINITIONS AND SPECIAL RULES.—

(A) POSSESSION OF THE UNITED STATES.—For purposes of this subsection, the term ''possession of the United States'' includes the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

(B) MIRROR CODE TAX SYSTEM.—For purposes of this subsection, the term ''mirror code tax system'' means, with respect to any possession of the United States, the income tax system of such possession if the income tax liability of the residents of such possession under such system is determined by reference to the income tax laws of the United States as if such possession were the United States.

(C) TREATMENT OF PAYMENTS.—For purposes of section 1324 of title 31, United States Code, the payments under this subsection shall be treated in the same manner as a refund due from a credit provision referred to in subsection (b)(2) of such section.

(d) EXCEPTION FROM REDUCTION, OFFSET, GARNISHMENT, ETC..—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Any credit or refund allowed or made to any individual by reason of section 6428A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (as added by this section) or by reason of subsection (c) of this section shall not be—

(A) subject to reduction or offset pursuant to section 3716 or 3720A of title 31, United States Code,

(B) subject to reduction or offset pursuant to subsection (d), (e), or (f) of section 6402 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or

(C) reduced or offset by other assessed Federal taxes that would otherwise be subject to levy or collection.

(2) ASSIGNMENT OF BENEFITS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Any applicable payment shall not be subject to transfer, assignment, execution, levy, attachment, garnishment, or other legal process, or the operation of any bankruptcy or insolvency law, to the same extent as payments described in section 207 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 407) without regard to subsection (b) thereof.

(B) ENCODING OF PAYMENTS.—As soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of this paragraph, the Secretary of the Treasury shall encode applicable payments that are paid electronically to any account—

(i) with a unique identifier that is reasonably sufficient to allow a financial institution to identify the payment as a payment protected under subparagraph (A), and

(ii) pursuant to the same specifications as required for a benefit payment to which part 212 of title 31, Code of Federal regulations applies.

(C) GARNISHMENT.—

(i) ENCODED PAYMENTS.—Upon receipt of a garnishment order that applies to an account that has received an applicable payment that is encoded as provided in subparagraph (B), a financial institution shall follow the requirements and procedures set forth in part 212 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations. This paragraph shall not alter the status of payments as tax refunds or other nonbenefit payments for purpose of any reclamation rights of the Department of Treasury or the Internal Revenue Service as per part 210 of title 31 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

(ii) OTHER PAYMENTS.—If a financial institution receives a garnishment order (other than an order that has been served by the United States) that applies to an account into which an applicable payment that has not been encoded as provided in subparagraph (B) has been deposited on any date in the prior 60 days (including any date before the date of the enactment of this paragraph), the financial institution, upon the request of the account holder or for purposes of complying in good faith with a State order, State law, court order, or interpretation by a State Attorney General relating to garnishment order, may, but is not required to, treat the amount of the payment as exempt under law from garnishment without requiring the account holder to assert any right of garnishment exemption or requiring the consent of the judgment creditor.

(iii) LIABILITY.—A financial institution that complies in good faith with clause (i) or that acts in good faith in reliance on clause (ii) shall not be liable under any Federal or State law, regulation, or court or other order to a creditor that initiates an order for any protected amounts, to an account holder for any frozen amounts or garnishment order applied.

(D) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this paragraph—

(i) ACCOUNT HOLDER.—The term ''account holder'' means a natural person against whom a garnishment order is issued and whose name appears in a financial institution's records.

(ii) APPLICABLE PAYMENT.—The term ''applicable payment'' means any payment of credit or refund by reason of section 6428A of such Code (as so added) or by reason of subsection (c) of this section.

(iii) GARNISHMENT.—The term ''garnishment'' means execution, levy, attachment, garnishment, or other legal process.

(iv) GARNISHMENT ORDER.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—The term ''garnishment order'' means a writ, order, notice, summons, judgment, levy, or similar written instruction issued by a court, a State or State agency, or a municipality or municipal corporation, including an order to freeze the assets in an account, to effect a garnishment against a debtor.

(II) EXCEPTION FOR CHILD SUPPORT.—The term ''garnishment order'' shall not include any writ, order, notice, summons, judgment, levy or other similar written instruction issued by a State child support enforcement agency.

(E) EXCEPTION FOR CHILD SUPPORT.—Nothing in this subsection shall prevent or prejudice the enforcement of any writ, order, notice, summons, judgment, levy or other similar written instruction issued by a State child support enforcement agency.

(e) PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN.—The Secretary of the Treasury (or the Secretary's delegate) shall conduct a public awareness campaign, in coordination with the Commissioner of Social Security and the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, to provide information regarding the availability of the credit and rebate allowed under section 6428A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (as added by this section), including information with respect to individuals who may not have filed a tax return for taxable year 2018 or 2019.

(f) APPROPRIATIONS TO CARRY OUT REBATES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Immediately upon the enactment of this Act, the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2021:

(A) DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY.—

(i) For an additional amount for ''Department of the Treasury—Bureau of the Fiscal Service—Salaries and Expenses'', $78,650,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022.

(ii) For an additional amount for ''Department of the Treasury—Internal Revenue Service—Taxpayer Services'', $293,500,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022.

(iii) For an additional amount for ''Department of the Treasury—Internal Revenue Service—Operations Support'', $170,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022.

(iv) For an additional amount for ''Department of Treasury—Internal Revenue Service—Enforcement'', $37,200,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022.

Amounts made available in appropriations under clauses (ii), (iii), and (iv) of this subparagraph may be transferred between such appropriations upon the advance notification of the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate. Such transfer authority is in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law.

(B) SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION.—For an additional amount for ''Social Security Administration—Limitation on Administrative Expenses'', $38,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022.

(2) REPORTS.—No later than 15 days after enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury shall submit a plan to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate detailing the expected use of the funds provided by paragraph (1)(A). Beginning 90 days after enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury shall submit a quarterly report to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate detailing the actual expenditure of funds provided by paragraph (1)(A) and the expected expenditure of such funds in the subsequent quarter.

(g) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Paragraph (2) of section 1324(b) of title 31, United States Code, is amended by inserting ''6428A,'' after ''6428,''.

(2) The table of sections for subchapter B of chapter 65 of subtitle F of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 6428 the following:

''Sec. 6428A. Additional recovery Rebates for individuals.''.

SA 2702. Ms. MURKOWSKI (for Mr. MORAN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 633, to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the members of the Women's Army Corps who were assigned to the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, known as the ''Six Triple Eight''; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the '''Six Triple Eight' Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2020''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) On July 1, 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed into law legislation that established the Women's Army Corps (referred to in this section as the ''WAC'') as a component in the Army. The WAC was converted from the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (referred to in this section as the ''WAAC''), which had been created in 1942 without official military status. First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and Mary McLeod Bethune, the founder of the National Council of Negro Women, advocated for the admittance of African-American women into the newly formed WAC to serve as officers and enlisted personnel.

(2) Dubbed ''10 percenters'', the recruitment of African-American women to the WAAC was limited to 10 percent of the population of the WAAC to match the proportion of African-Americans in the national population. Despite an executive order issued by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1941 banning racial discrimination in civilian defense industries, the Armed Forces remained segregated. Enlisted women served in segregated units, participated in segregated training, lived in separate quarters, ate at separate tables in mess halls, and used segregated recreational facilities. Officers received their officer candidate training in integrated units but lived under segregated conditions. Specialist and technical training schools were integrated in 1943. During World War II, a total of 6,520 African-American women served in the WAAC and the WAC.

(3) After several units of White women were sent to serve in the European Theater of Operations (referred to in this section as the ''ETO'') during World War II, African-American organizations advocated for the War Department to extend the opportunity to serve overseas to African-American WAC units.

(4) In November 1944, the War Department approved sending African-American women to serve in Europe. A battalion of all African-American women drawn from the WAC, the Army Service Forces, and the Army Air Forces was created and designated as the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion (referred to in this section as the ''6888th''), which was nicknamed the ''Six Triple Eight''.

(5) Army officials reported a shortage of qualified postal officers within the ETO, which resulted in a backlog of undelivered mail. As Allied forces drove across Europe,

the ever-changing locations of servicemembers hampered the delivery of mail to those servicemembers. Because 7,000,000 individuals from the United States were serving in the ETO, many of those individuals had identical names. As an example, 7,500 such individuals were named Robert Smith. One general predicted that the backlog in Birmingham, England would take 6 months to process and the lack of reliable mail service was hurting morale.

(6) In March 1945, the 6888th arrived in Birmingham. Upon their arrival, the 6888th found warehouses filled with millions of pieces of mail intended for members of the Armed Forces, United States Government personnel, and Red Cross workers serving in the ETO.

(7) The 6888th created effective processes and filing systems to track individual servicemembers, organize ''undeliverable'' mail, determine the intended recipient for insufficiently addressed mail, and handle mail addressed to servicemembers who had died. Adhering to their motto of ''No mail, low morale'', the women processed an average of 65,000 pieces of mail per shift and cleared the 6-month backlog of mail within 3 months.

(8) The 6888th traveled to Rouen, France in May 1945 and worked through a separate backlog of undelivered mail dating back as far as 3 years.

(9) At the completion of their mission, the entire unit returned to the United States. The 6888th was discontinued on March 9, 1946, at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey.

(10) The accomplishments of the 6888th in Europe encouraged the General Board, United States Forces, European Theater of Operations to adopt the following premise in their study of the WAC issued in December 1945: ''[T]he national security program is the joint responsibility of all Americans irrespective of color or sex'' and ''the continued use of colored, along with white, female military personnel is required in such strength as is proportionately appropriate to the relative population distribution between colored and white races''.

(11) With the exception of smaller units of African-American nurses who served in Africa, Australia, and England, the 6888th was the only African-American women's unit to serve overseas during World War II.

(12) The members of the ''Six Triple Eight'' received the European African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, the Women's Army Corps Service Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal for their service.

SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) AWARD AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the award, on behalf of Congress, of a single gold medal of appropriate design in honor of the women of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion (commonly known as the ''Six Triple Eight'') in recognition of—

(1) the pioneering military service of those women;

(2) the devotion to duty of those women; and

(3) the contributions made by those women to increase the morale of all United States personnel stationed in the European Theater of Operations during World War II.

(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purposes of the award described in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury (referred to in this Act as the ''Secretary'') shall strike the gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary.

(c) SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—After the award of the gold medal under subsection (a), the medal shall be given to the Smithsonian Institution, where the medal shall be available for display, as appropriate, and made available for research.

(2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Smithsonian Institution should make the gold medal received under paragraph (1) available elsewhere, particularly at—

(A) appropriate locations associated with the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion;

(B) the Women in Military Service for America Memorial;

(C) the United States Army Women's Museum;

(D) the National World War II Museum and Memorial; and

(E) any other location determined appropriate by the Smithsonian Institution.

SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

Under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, the Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck under section 3 at a price sufficient to cover the costs of the medals, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

SEC. 5. NATIONAL MEDALS.

(a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—Medals struck under this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

(b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

SA 2703. Ms. MURKOWSKI (for Mrs. GILLIBRAND) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 1925, to designate the Manhattan Campus of the New York Harbor Health Care System of the Department of Veterans Affairs as the ''Margaret Cochran Corbin Campus of the New York Harbor Health Care System''; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF MANHATTAN CAMPUS OF THE NEW YORK HARBOR HEALTH CARE SYSTEM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, NEW YORK.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Margaret Cochran was born in Franklin County, Pennsylvania, on November 12, 1751, and married John Corbin in 1772.

(2) Three years after the marriage, when John Corbin left to fight in the Revolutionary War as an artilleryman, Margaret Corbin accompanied him to war to support the Revolutionary Army.

(3) Margaret Corbin supported the Revolutionary Army by caring for injured and sick soldiers as well as by cooking and cleaning. During battle, she also helped her husband load the cannon he was responsible for manning.

(4) On November 16, 1776, John Corbin was manning a cannon during the Battle of Fort Washington on Manhattan Island, New York, when he was killed. Margaret Corbin heroically took her husband's place, firing the cannon until she, too, was hit by enemy fire and seriously wounded.

(5) Having lost the use of her left arm, Margaret Corbin was assigned to the ''Invalid Regiment'' at West Point, New York.

(6) The Continental Congress awarded Margaret Corbin a lifelong pension for her injuries, making her the first woman to receive a pension from the United States by virtue of military service for the United States.

(7) Margaret Corbin died in 1789 in Highland Falls, New York. She is honored nearby at West Point as a hero of the Revolutionary War.

(b) DESIGNATION.—The Manhattan Campus of the New York Harbor Health Care System of the Department of Veterans Affairs in New York, New York, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the ''Margaret Cochran Corbin Campus of the New York Harbor Health Care System'' or the ''Margaret Cochran Corbin VA Campus''.

(c) REFERENCE.—Any reference in any law, regulation, map, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Campus referred to in subsection (b) shall be deemed to be a reference to the Margaret Cochran Corbin Campus of the New York Harbor Health Care System.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I have 4 requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, December 10, 2020, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, December 10, 2020, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SURFACE TRANSPORTATION AND MERCHANT MARINE INFRASTRUCTURE, SAFETY AND SECURITY

The Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety and Security of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, December 10, 2020, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

The Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, December 10, 2020, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

(Ms. MURKOWSKI assumed the Chair.)

(Mr. BRAUN assumed the Chair.)

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATIONAL IMPAIRED DRIVING PREVENTION MONTH

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 799, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 799) designating December 2020 as ''National Impaired Driving Prevention Month''.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I further ask that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be made considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 799) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

'SIX TRIPLE EIGHT' CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT OF 2019

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 633 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 633) to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the members of the Women's Army Corps who were assigned to the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, known as the ''Six Triple Eight''.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I ask unanimous consent that the Moran substitute amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 2702) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the '''Six Triple Eight' Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2020''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) On July 1, 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed into law legislation that established the Women's Army Corps (referred to in this section as the ''WAC'') as a component in the Army. The WAC was converted from the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (referred to in this section as the ''WAAC''), which had been created in 1942 without official military status. First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and Mary McLeod Bethune, the founder of the National Council of Negro Women, advocated for the admittance of African-American women into the newly formed WAC to serve as officers and enlisted personnel.

(2) Dubbed ''10 percenters'', the recruitment of African-American women to the WAAC was limited to 10 percent of the population of the WAAC to match the proportion of African-Americans in the national population. Despite an executive order issued by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1941 banning racial discrimination in civilian defense industries, the Armed Forces remained segregated. Enlisted women served in segregated units, participated in segregated training, lived in separate quarters, ate at separate tables in mess halls, and used segregated recreational facilities. Officers received their officer candidate training in integrated units but lived under segregated conditions. Specialist and technical training schools were integrated in 1943. During World War II, a total of 6,520 African-American women served in the WAAC and the WAC.

(3) After several units of White women were sent to serve in the European Theater of Operations (referred to in this section as the ''ETO'') during World War II, African-American organizations advocated for the War Department to extend the opportunity to serve overseas to African-American WAC units.

(4) In November 1944, the War Department approved sending African-American women to serve in Europe. A battalion of all African-American women drawn from the WAC, the Army Service Forces, and the Army Air Forces was created and designated as the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion (referred to in this section as the ''6888th''), which was nicknamed the ''Six Triple Eight''.

(5) Army officials reported a shortage of qualified postal officers within the ETO, which resulted in a backlog of undelivered mail. As Allied forces drove across Europe, the ever-changing locations of servicemembers hampered the delivery of mail to those servicemembers. Because 7,000,000 individuals from the United States were serving in the ETO, many of those individuals had identical names. As an example, 7,500 such individuals were named Robert Smith. One general predicted that the backlog in Birmingham, England would take 6 months to process and the lack of reliable mail service was hurting morale.

(6) In March 1945, the 6888th arrived in Birmingham. Upon their arrival, the 6888th found warehouses filled with millions of pieces of mail intended for members of the Armed Forces, United States Government personnel, and Red Cross workers serving in the ETO.

(7) The 6888th created effective processes and filing systems to track individual servicemembers, organize ''undeliverable'' mail, determine the intended recipient for insufficiently addressed mail, and handle mail addressed to servicemembers who had died. Adhering to their motto of ''No mail, low morale'', the women processed an average of 65,000 pieces of mail per shift and cleared the 6-month backlog of mail within 3 months.

(8) The 6888th traveled to Rouen, France in May 1945 and worked through a separate backlog of undelivered mail dating back as far as 3 years.

(9) At the completion of their mission, the entire unit returned to the United States. The 6888th was discontinued on March 9, 1946, at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey.

(10) The accomplishments of the 6888th in Europe encouraged the General Board, United States Forces, European Theater of Operations to adopt the following premise in their study of the WAC issued in December 1945: ''[T]he national security program is the joint responsibility of all Americans irrespective of color or sex'' and ''the continued use of colored, along with white, female military personnel is required in such strength as is proportionately appropriate to the relative population distribution between colored and white races''.

(11) With the exception of smaller units of African-American nurses who served in Africa, Australia, and England, the 6888th was the only African-American women's unit to serve overseas during World War II.

(12) The members of the ''Six Triple Eight'' received the European African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, the Women's Army Corps Service Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal for their service.

SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) AWARD AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the award, on behalf of Congress, of a single gold medal of appropriate design in honor of the women of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion (commonly known as the ''Six Triple Eight'') in recognition of—

(1) the pioneering military service of those women;

(2) the devotion to duty of those women; and

(3) the contributions made by those women to increase the morale of all United States personnel stationed in the European Theater of Operations during World War II.

(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purposes of the award described in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury (referred to in this Act as the ''Secretary'') shall strike the gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary.

(c) SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—After the award of the gold medal under subsection (a), the medal shall be given to the Smithsonian Institution, where the medal shall be available for display, as appropriate, and made available for research.

(2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Smithsonian Institution should make the gold medal received under paragraph (1) available elsewhere, particularly at—

(A) appropriate locations associated with the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion;

(B) the Women in Military Service for America Memorial;

(C) the United States Army Women's Museum;

(D) the National World War II Museum and Memorial; and

(E) any other location determined appropriate by the Smithsonian Institution.

SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

Under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, the Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck under section 3 at a price sufficient to cover the costs of the medals, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

SEC. 5. NATIONAL MEDALS.

(a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—Medals struck under this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

(b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

The bill (S. 633), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

THE ''MARGARET COCHRAN CORBIN CAMPUS OF THE NEW YORK HARBOR HEALTH CARE SYSTEM''

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 1925, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1925) to designate the Manhattan Campus of the New York Harbor Health Care System of the Department of Veterans Affairs as the ''Margaret Cochran Corbin Campus of the New York Harbor Health Care System''.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I ask unanimous consent that the Gillibrand substitute amendment at the desk be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 2703) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF MANHATTAN CAMPUS OF THE NEW YORK HARBOR HEALTH CARE SYSTEM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, NEW YORK.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Margaret Cochran was born in Franklin County, Pennsylvania, on November 12, 1751, and married John Corbin in 1772.

(2) Three years after the marriage, when John Corbin left to fight in the Revolutionary War as an artilleryman, Margaret Corbin accompanied him to war to support the Revolutionary Army.

(3) Margaret Corbin supported the Revolutionary Army by caring for injured and sick soldiers as well as by cooking and cleaning. During battle, she also helped her husband load the cannon he was responsible for manning.

(4) On November 16, 1776, John Corbin was manning a cannon during the Battle of Fort Washington on Manhattan Island, New York, when he was killed. Margaret Corbin heroically took her husband's place, firing the cannon until she, too, was hit by enemy fire and seriously wounded.

(5) Having lost the use of her left arm, Margaret Corbin was assigned to the ''Invalid Regiment'' at West Point, New York.

(6) The Continental Congress awarded Margaret Corbin a lifelong pension for her injuries, making her the first woman to receive a pension from the United States by virtue of military service for the United States.

(7) Margaret Corbin died in 1789 in Highland Falls, New York. She is honored nearby at West Point as a hero of the Revolutionary War.

(b) DESIGNATION.—The Manhattan Campus of the New York Harbor Health Care System of the Department of Veterans Affairs in New York, New York, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the ''Margaret Cochran Corbin Campus of the New York Harbor Health Care System'' or the ''Margaret Cochran Corbin VA Campus''.

(c) REFERENCE.—Any reference in any law, regulation, map, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Campus referred to in subsection (b) shall be deemed to be a reference to the Margaret Cochran Corbin Campus of the New York Harbor Health Care System.

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

The bill (H.R. 1925), as amended, was passed.

TRAVIS W. ATKINS DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS CLINIC

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Chair lay before the Senate the message to accompany S. 900.

The Presiding Officer laid before the Senate the following message from the House of Representatives:

Resolved, That the bill from the Senate (S. 900) entitled ''An Act to designate the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Bozeman, Montana, as the 'Travis W. Atkins Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic'.'', do pass with an amendment.

MOTION TO CONCUR

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I move to concur in the House amendment, and I ask unanimous consent that the motion be agreed to and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

STAFF SERGEANT ALEXANDER W. CONRAD VETERANS AFFAIRS HEALTH CARE CLINIC

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 4983 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4983) to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Gilbert, Arizona, as the ''Staff Sergeant Alexander W. Conrad Veterans Affairs Health Care Clinic''.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 4983) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL CHARLES S. KETTLES DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 7347 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 7347) to designate the medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Ann Arbor, Michigan, as the ''Lieutenant Colonel Charles S. Kettles Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center''.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 7347) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

DRONE ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE 21ST CENTURY ACT

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 560, S. 2730.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2730) to establish and ensure an inclusive and transparent Drone Advisory Committee.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which was reported from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Drone Advisory Committee for the 21st Century Act''.

SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the Sense of Congress that:

(1) Due to the ever-increasing use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems in the agriculture, forestry, and rangeland sectors, as well as the inherently different uses in less populated parts of the nation, membership of the Drone Advisory Committee established by the Federal Aviation Administration should, to the extent practicable,

include direct representatives from county and tribal government, agriculture, forestry, and rangeland interests.

(2) Full transparency in the work of the Drone Advisory Committee is vital to ensuring the public can effectively participate and contribute to the development of sound Federal policies. The Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration should, to the maximum extent practicable, ensure the work of the Drone Advisory Committee is shared with and easily accessible to the public and shall ensure transparency and openness in the manner in which the affairs of the Committee are conducted.

SEC. 3. DRONE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP.

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Aviation Administration shall take appropriate steps to encourage direct representation of county and tribal governments as well as agriculture, forestry, rangeland sectors, and other rural interests on the Drone Advisory Committee.

(2) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.—To the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator shall include public participation in the process of nominating individuals for membership on the Committee.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I further ask that the committee-reported substitute be considered and agreed to; the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed; and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment, in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to.

The bill (S. 2730), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2020

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m., Friday, December 11, 2020; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; finally, that following leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 6395.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:10 p.m., adjourned until Friday, December 11, 2020, at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nomination received by the Senate:

UNITED STATES TAX COURT

MARK VAN DYKE HOLMES, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES TAX COURT FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS. (REAPPOINTMENT)

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING SUPERVISOR ROB BROWN

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2020

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Supervisor Rob Brown for more than 20 years of dedicated public service in Lake County on the occasion of his retirement. In his five terms as County Supervisor, he has displayed a practical, sensible approach to leadership that has endeared him to his colleagues and constituents.

A Lake County native, Supervisor Brown has made it his mission to address the most important issues facing his life-long home. In response to the devastating 2015 Valley Fire, he stepped up to lead the county's response and recovery efforts and personally oversaw the evacuation of Clearlake Riviera when law enforcement was overstrained. Never a man to leave things unfinished, he spearheaded extended land management assistance under the Benefit Zone initiative and brought volunteers together under the ''1,000 Hands Project'' to mitigate future wildfire risks. When the Coronavirus pandemic threatened lives and livelihoods, he once again rose to the challenge, developing plans to distribute more than $1 million in CARES Act funding to businesses in need.

Even in more certain times, Supervisor Brown never became complacent, tirelessly pursuing projects to benefit his constituents. He was instrumental in securing private funding for the construction of the Children's Multi-Disciplinary Interview Center for the District Attorney's Office, which has gained recognition as a powerful tool to improve child welfare. Always attuned to the need to preserve our natural and historic heritage, he led the acquisition of Mt. Konocti as a County Park and the establishment of the Ely Stage Stop Agricultural Museum. Even while working diligently to accomplish these goals, Supervisor Brown made a name for himself as a uniquely humorous, compassionate community member, partner, father, and grandfather.

Madam Speaker, Supervisor Rob Brown has distinguished himself as a civic leader with integrity, intellect, and savvy. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

RECOGNIZING LESLIE LOVE

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2020

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the lasting impact of the work of Michigan State Representative Leslie Love as she enters into retirement.

Over the years, I have witnessed Representative Love's hard work and commitment to the people she serves in Michigan's Tenth House District. Rep. Love was born, raised, and educated in the City of Detroit and her community roots run deep. She is passionate in her approach to securing resources for the residents of Redford Township and the City of Detroit. As a legislator, she counts among her successes, securing financial resources that provide much-needed technology to public schools, public parks, and after school programming for young people. Rep. Love has also championed auto insurance reform, a policy that would have a profound impact on residents. Further cementing her commitment to public service, Rep. Love has connected with residents throughout the Tenth House District on countless occasions, whether it's attending community events or hosting town halls or coffee hours.

In short, Representative Leslie Love has served the public admirably. Please join me in tribute to her service.

HONORING THE VOLUNTEERS OF THE IOWA MASK BRIGADE

HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2020

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, as millions of individuals, families, and essential workers struggle to obtain the proper personal protective equipment (PPE) required to keep them safe during these difficult times, volunteer organizations like the Iowa Mask Brigade have stepped up to provide these critical items to keep our citizens and communities safe. That is why today, I rise to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the Iowa Mask Brigade as this week's Iowan of the Week.

The Iowa Mask Brigade was founded earlier this year by Connie Klug after she received a distressed call from her niece, an emergency room doctor in desperate need of PPE. Connie immediately got to work researching protective masks and found that filters were the most important feature that made them effective. Although commercial face mask filters were not available, Connie used her problem-solving skills to create her own. She began cutting furnace filters from the company 3M, the same company that produces the coveted N95 masks. Sandwiching this filter in between two layers of high-quality cotton fabric, Connie produced her first mask in a process the New York Times would later consider the best method of making homemade masks. Connie, a quilter, enlisted the help of two of her seamstress friends, who enlisted the help of their friends, and an organization instantly formed as volunteers coalesced around one simple idea: to provide masks to those who need them.

In their first month of operation, the Iowa Mask Brigade used over 75 furnace filters. Today, the Iowa Mask Brigade consists of 35 volunteers who have collectively produced almost 8,000 masks since its inception in March.

One of those volunteers is Ray Getting, who handles much of the logistics within the Brigade. In a recent conversation, he mentioned everyone who has received a mask is so incredibly appreciative. The group maintains extremely high standards for quality, and if a mask wasn't perfect, it wasn't sent out. He's been able to send high quality masks to people he cares about in places he knows it's going to make a difference.

As the organization has grown, their mask-making has become more innovative. When the Brigade ran out of elastic bands for ear loops, they turned to hairbands. Today, they have purchased over 25,000 hairbands for their masks, and they have shared this technique, as well as many others they have developed, with other mask-making organizations.

The Iowa Mask Brigade has sent masks to people in need all over the United States. From the Iowa's Dallas County Hospital to San Antonio to the Navajo Nation in Arizona, for whom they have created a custom design to fit their preferences. Now, the Brigade mostly serves low income housing, hospitals, and nursing homes, such as the APEHA senior living apartments in Johnston, Iowa.

In honoring the Iowa Mask Brigade today, I want to underscore the values of hard work, dedication, persistence, and problem-solving that Iowans demonstrate in spades during this difficult time. As Connie Klug said, ''A unique characteristic of Iowans is that we don't get defeated easily. We just went to work and overcame it. That to me is Iowans: we don't get discouraged; we just get to work. We're not helpless. We rolled up our sleeves and said, there are not problems that we can't figure out.''

I am so proud to recognize the Iowa Mask Brigade for their outstanding work and their unwavering willingness to help all those in need. It is my hope that other individuals and organizations are inspired to take action of their own. The volunteers powering the Iowa Mask Brigade have not only given protective gear to people in need, but also instilled hope when we need it most. It is my honor to share the Iowa Mask Brigade's story and recognize the group as our Iowan of the Week.

RECOGNIZING POET LAUREATE ROSA MARIA CEBALLOS DE LLANO

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2020

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Rosa Maria Ceballos de Llano on being named the City of Laredo's 2020–2022 Poet Laureate.

Rosa was born in Nuevo Laredo, México to parents Manuel Ceballos and Evangelina

Ramírez de Ceballos. She attended Colegio América Elementary School in Nuevo Laredo before attending St. Augustine High School in Laredo, TX, where she was class valedictorian. She would soon earn an Associate of Arts Degree from Laredo Junior College and then a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Spanish and History from Texas A&I University-Kingsville. Years later, she would continue her studies at Laredo State University where she earned a Master of Science in Secondary Education and Spanish.

In 1969, Rosa joined the Laredo Independent School District, where she taught for 39 years. Over the course of her time at Laredo ISD, she was known as an outstanding teacher and an inspiring person. She was an individual who dedicated her time to ensuring that her students gained an enriching education while always pushing them to challenge themselves with new experiences. For example, she sponsored study abroad trips to Spain, hosted oral Spanish poetry and prose contests, and created a Mother's Day program of original poetry and prose compositions. She would also have her students present their poetry to dignitaries honored at the annual LULAC Senor Internacional. In addition to her work at Laredo ISD, she also served as an Adjunct Spanish Professor at Texas A&M International University for several years. She was also a Hispanic Studies PhD Candidate at Texas A&M University-College Station, where she passed all oral and written exams.

Rosa is also a renowned artist, Her poetry has given a strong and distinct voice to those in the border community. She understands the unique experience of Laredoans and brings that familiarity to a larger audience. I appreciate her work and the guidance she has given to countless students. Her work in the field of education is both moving and a reminder of how many lives can be touched by just one individual.

For her work, she has received numerous awards, including: Laredo Morning Times Woman of the Month, Cigarroa High School Teacher of the Year and the Raíces Award, Webb County Heritage Foundation Traditions and Folklore Award, El Mañana Literary Award, National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship, Laredo's Golden Apple Award, Laredo Chamber of Commerce Bell Award, University of Texas Excellence in Teaching Award, and Texas Spanish Teacher of the Year. She was also inducted into the Laredo Women's Hall of Fame in 2000.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Rosa Maria Ceballos de Llano on this prestigious recognition and I wish her the best moving forward.

HONORING KARRIE PARDIECK

HON. GREG PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2020

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to give thanks to a dedicated public servant who has for two decades served the people of eastern Indiana with great care and devotion.

As she now retires with twenty years of service, I want to offer my wholehearted thanks to Karrie Pardieck for all that she has done for me, my predecessors and for Hoosiers across eastern Indiana.

Karrie Pardieck was first hired by my brother, Vice President MIKE PENCE, when he was elected to what was then the Second Congressional District of Indiana. As the Second became the Sixth, Karrie earned a reputation of putting Hoosier constituents first.

My staff knows that we have no higher priority than constituent services, and Karrie has been on the front lines of ensuring that Hoosiers were taken care of and their voices were being heard.

Undoubtedly Karrie has handled many thousands of cases in her area of expertise. In just the last two years alone, Karrie opened federal inquiries on behalf of more than 225 Sixth District Hoosiers. Time and again, I have heard from constituents who needed help with Social Security Retirement, Disability and Medicare. Many have reached out or sent letters saying that Karrie would always lead with a servant's heart, an eye for detail and a can-do attitude.

My immediate predecessor, Congressman Luke Messer, said upon the occasion of his retirement from this body stated that Karrie "made our office a better place to work, and she is a valuable member of our team."

For twenty years Karrie Pardieck has made this office better. For twenty years, she has been a valuable member of the Sixth District team.

As she now closes this chapter and departs from public service, I join my predecessors and the many lives she has touched as a Constituent Services Representative for Indiana's Sixth Congressional District in wishing Karrie Pardieck a joyous retirement.

Well done, good and faithful servant.

REAFFIRMING COMMITMENT TO MEDIA DIVERSITY

SPEECH OF

HON. JENNIFFER GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to express my support of House Resolution 549, which I introduced along with my colleague, Congresswoman VAL DEMINGS, and is led in the Senate also in a bipartisan way by Senators JACKY ROSEN and MARCO RUBIO.

As the first woman to represent Puerto Rico in Congress, I take great pride in being a part of this initiative that seeks to eliminate barriers that prevent media diversity. I strongly believe that it is our responsibility to pay it forward, and work to ensure that minorities are represented in every sector of society whether it is in elected office, in businesses, in the military or in the media.

This resolution is simple, Mr. Speaker. It sends a strong message that we in Congress are united in this effort to encourage media diversity that will benefit Americans from all backgrounds and walks of life stay informed and civically engaged.

Whether through traditional outlets such as television, radio or newspaper, or through new technologies and digital platforms, media plays a critical role in our daily lives, influencing our perspective on almost every issue. By having access to independent, diverse, and local media contributors, our communities can be exposed to different viewpoints providing them opportunities to contribute to the crucial debates facing our country.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, our nation is diversifying at a faster ratio than it was ever projected. Over the last decade, nearly 4 of 10 Americans identified with a race or ethnic group other than white. Yet, this is not proportionally reflected in media and communication occupations.

Fifty years ago, the Kerner Commission Report called for increased media diversity, citing that limited participation of diverse populations in media decision-making had negative economic and social cost for our society. And although some progress has been made, we can and we must do better.

Our nation is strengthened by diverse points of view, diverse talents, and a workforce that truly reflects our country's identity. We cannot wait fifty more years, we need to start now and promote an inclusive workforce, welcoming those who aspire to become journalists, correspondents, creators, directors, producers, programmers, distributors, behind the camera and on-air personalities.

This resolution empowers us with the ability to create a strategy, build coalitions, and work to remove the barriers to increase participation in this growing industry. We must also promote diversity so that more members of our communities can relate.

We have an opportunity here in Congress to lead the way, demonstrate our commitment to the American people that diverse representation in all aspects of American life are critical to a healthy, prosperous democracy.

Diversity is what makes this country rich. Our nation is comprised of people who represent a plethora of thoughts, heritage and upbringing that is not always represented in the media, making some of these groups invisible to others.

Media should be a reflection of the society they serve. Learning about other experiences, listening to different opinions, and getting to know other's backgrounds strengthens our nation and leads to inclusion.

REMEMBERING JEREMY DODD

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2020

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, on Monday, December 7th, I attended the funeral service of a dear friend and mentor. A complex, sensitive, intuitive observer of this human comedy we call life. Jeremy Dodd was a remarkable man. I include in the RECORD this brief introduction is his obituary written by his son, Owen, and a poem entitled, "The Dash."

In 1978, Jeremy and I worked down the hall from one another. I knew of him because his father was a United States Senator from Connecticut, who the Irish and Americans across the country had always taken great pride in his role in the Nuremberg Trials, and also his brother Chris, who at the time was the sitting member of Congress from the 2nd District and would go on to follow his father and become a United States Senator. Jeremy historically and culturally knew politics, he gained that knowledge from growing up in a family immersed in it. Beyond politics, he could conduct

conversations on any subject, from sports, to theater, literature, art, and photography—he had a feel for life and a keen way of listening to others. Moreover, a very likable man able to focus in on the simple aspect of human interaction—the handshake, the greeting, and a smile. Most of all, he was great fun, always able to use self-deprecating humor and weave stories of life, history and literature from his unique perspective. That perspective was usually made clearer or more fuzzy depending on what we ordered from the top shelf. He was above all genuine, not without his faults, but his virtue far surpassed what he would call his inconsistencies. He was great company: engaging, quick-witted, and loved a good laugh.

The funeral was in the ancestral neighborhood of his grandparents and where his father, Tom, and his mother, Grace, are buried in an old Irish cemetery. The center of which was the Church of St. Michael the Archangel built by the Irish who lived in the area. The wooden beams, the stained-glass window, the tiled floor, wooden confessional, all works of art in their own right.

Before the funeral began, I had the opportunity to talk with Owen, Jeremy's son who was my press secretary, and present him with a flag flown over the United States Capitol in his father's honor. I also spoke with his uncle, United States Senator Chris Dodd, whom I had been a district coordinator for in his 1980 run for the Senate and when I came to the Congress in 1998 he took me under his wing and always gave wise counsel and stellar advice. He told me he was going through Jeremy's belongings and came across this poem that Jeremy was very fond of. He then thanked me for being there and gave me this poem called "The Dash."

It is my honor to introduce it and include it in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. This poem, written by Linda Ellis, aptly describes Jeremy, his family, his father, his brother U.S. Senator Dodd, his son Owen, and the entire Dodd family: a family that was an exemplary example of public service, love of country, ever committed to making a more perfect union and being defined by their accomplishments between "The Dash."

In Loving Memory of a Man Who Took the Road Less Traveled:

Old Saybrook—Jeremy (Jerry) Murphy Dodd, 82, died peacefully on November 27, 2020, due to complications from Alzheimer's disease. Jerry leaves his loving and only son, Owen M. Dodd, his former spouse Barbara M. Dodd and his four siblings Thomas J. Dodd his spouse Mary O'Neil Dodd, Mary Carolyn Dodd, Senator Christopher J. Dodd and his spouse Jackie Clegg-Dodd, Nicholas Owen Dodd, and his loving friend, Joanne Hoye. He also leaves behind eleven nieces and nephews and an extensive loving family. In addition, Jerry joins his late sister, Martha Dodd-Buonanno. Jerry is the third child of the six children born of Mary Grace and Senator Thomas J. Dodd. He was born in New Haven, CT, on September 23, 1938, amid the New England Hurricane—one of the most destructive and deadliest hurricanes to make landfall in Connecticut. Raised in the Nutmeg State, he called home in North Stonington, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook and West Hartford. He graduated from the Cheshire Academy and then served in both the U.S. Army and the U.S. Coastguard where he was honorably discharged from both services. He then went on to study at Mexico City College, Mexico City, Mexico earning his bachelor's in history. After graduating in 1962, as a fluent Spanish speaker, he hitchhiked through Central and South America during a time of political upheaval and great transition in the region. This momentous time was influential in shaping Jerry's worldview especially as it pertained to helping those who need it the most. Upon returning to the United States, he found his passion in life, photography. Jerry would study photography under the famous photographer John W. Doscher at the Doscher Country School of Photography in Vermont and would go on to take the portraits of Depression Era photographer Walker Evans and the renowned ornithologist and painter, Roger Tory Peterson. Jerry's innate photographic talent focused on families, portraiture, and legal photography, where he excelled and was in high demand across the state. Later in his life, he devoted his time to social work. He worked with community service programs that were committed to the rehabilitation of formerly incarcerated persons as he believed firmly in providing a second chance for people. He believed deeply in his work and it came from a belief of a higher-good where one should work towards something larger than oneself. Jerry was a lover of life who cherished animals, hiking in the White Mountains of New Hampshire, and sailing on the Connecticut River in his wooden boat, Mrs. Jones. He was a voracious reader and lover of history who understood that we all have a story to tell, and he was eager to hear the histories of those he met throughout his life. His indelible humor was contagious to others, and his magnetic personality was a complete joy to be around. He has truly left the world and its inhabitants better than where he found them. There will be a private ceremony at St. Michael the Archangel Church in Pawcatuck, Rhode Island on December 7, 2020, where he will be laid to rest next to his mother and father in the Dodd Family plot.

THE DASH

(By Linda Ellis)

I read of a man who stood to speak at the funeral of a friend. He referred to the dates on the tombstone from the beginning . . . to the end.

He noted that first came the date of birth and spoke of the following date with tears, but he said what mattered most of all was the dash between those years.

For that dash represents all the time they spent alive on earth and now only those who loved them know what that little line is worth.

For it matters not, how much we own, the cars . . . the house . . . the cash. What matters is how we live and love and how we spend our dash.

So think about this long and hard; are there things you'd like to change? For you never know how much time is left that still can be rearranged.

To be less quick to anger and show appreciation more and love the people in our lives like we've never loved before.

If we treat each other with respect and more often wear a smile . . . remembering that this special dash might only last a little while.

So when your eulogy is being read, with your life's actions to rehash, would you be proud of the things they say about how you lived your dash?

HONORING IOWA'S ELECTION POLL WORKERS AS IOWANS OF THE WEEK

HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2020

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing each and every one of the volunteer poll workers who helped with this general election as our Iowans of the Week.

Iowans have long prided ourselves on how we engage the democratic process. For us, that means a lot more than simply casting a ballot every so often: it means really getting to know candidates and elected officials, attending town halls to ask questions and voice opinions, keeping up with the news, encouraging our friends and neighbors to get involved, and consistently turning out to vote. To boil it down, Iowans believe participation is key when it comes to government and politics.

As positive cases of COVID–19 continue to rise in Iowa, state and county election officials had to find a way for Americans to cast their ballots safely, reliably, and on time. I'm proud to say they did so successfully, and that feat required more than 10,000 everyday citizens to step up and participate as volunteer poll workers throughout early voting and on Election Day.

These volunteers took time away from work, school, and home during the week and on weekends to give back to their communities. While they came to the table with their own political beliefs and values, they all worked together in a nonpartisan way to make the day run smoothly. As the risks of COVID–19 kept many older volunteers at home this year, Iowa saw more high school students and young adults sign up to fill the gaps. For weeks prior to November 3rd, individual county election offices planned and held dozens of trainings for volunteers to learn the ropes of being a precinct election official. On Election Day these volunteers staffed more than 1,600 precinct voting locations across the state, many working fifteen-hour shifts from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. to make sure every Iowan who wanted to could cast a ballot.

While working early voting sites and election day locations, they wore personal protective equipment like masks, face shields, and gloves and continually wiped down voting machines and frequently touched surfaces to ensure their neighbors could participate with minimal risk. They made sure Iowans visiting the polls had masks and hand sanitizer, knew where to go and what to do once they got there, and made sure the environment was safe and welcoming for all.

Elections that are free, fair, safe, and secure are the foundation of our nation's democracy. Maintaining that standard requires consistency, careful planning, and ongoing collaboration each cycle. I would be remiss if I did not thank election officials at the state and county levels for their tireless work to make the 2020 general election run smoothly across our state. The amount of work that goes on behind the scenes by these individuals is staggering. I also want to commend everyone who made their voices heard by casting a ballot this fall; their participation is how we move society forward.

Finally, I'd like to again extend my gratitude to the thousands of volunteer poll workers in central and southwest Iowa who stepped up to serve their communities and our democracy. They have performed an essential civic duty to ensure their neighbors could safely participate in record numbers, and they did so while dealing with a global pandemic. Their efforts and dedication are a true reflection of Iowa values, and I'm proud to name them Iowans of the Week.

2020 NOBEL PEACE PRIZE RECIPIENT THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2020

Mr. McGOVERN. Madam Speaker, today, December 10th, International Human Rights Day, at 7:00 AM Eastern Time, the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize was awarded in Oslo, Norway to the World Food Program (WFP) for its outstanding humanitarian work to feed the world's hungriest and most vulnerable people.

The World Food Program is the largest humanitarian organization addressing hunger and promoting food security internationally, providing aid to nearly 100 million people in 88 countries last year alone.

Since the COVID–19 pandemic began wreaking havoc on people's lives, livelihoods and economic security, WFP has redoubled its efforts to address global hunger and failing food systems. Last month, WFP executive director David Beasley warned of the potential for famine of Biblical proportions if the world failed to provide support now to the those currently made most vulnerable by the pandemic and its associated economic shocks, climate change, natural disaster, war and conflict.

I have had the privilege of seeing WFP operations up close and personal in various regions of the world. I was in eastern Chad on the border of Sudan visiting Sudanese refugee camps in 2007 when Janjaweed militias crossed the border and attacked two villages. WFP and many humanitarian aid groups swung into immediate action, providing safety, food, water and emergency medical care to hundreds of villagers made homeless in hours.

In Colombia, I've seen WFP provide nourishing meals in schools for the children of families internally displaced by violence. And in Ethiopia I visited health centers serving individuals and families ravaged by HIV/AIDS that could provide food for their patients thanks to WFP and its local partners.

In the wars in Syria, Yemen, Sudan and South Sudan, the deliveries of food and related services provided by WFP are often the only source of nourishment for civilian populations trapped in conflict zones, forcibly displaced inside their countries, or forced to flee to neighboring nations for safety.

I am very proud that the United States is the largest donor to WFP operations world-wide, and that USDA, USAID and our own Food for Peace Program are among WFP's most reliable and effective partners. The U.S. provides food grown by America's own farmers, ready-to-eat meals, cash assistance, support for school feeding programs, and nutritious food products tailored for the very young and especially for infants and young children suffering from malnutrition and undernutrition.

Many of us cannot imagine the range and scale of WFP's global mission. It includes 17,000 staff worldwide, works in some 80 countries, and has more than 20 ships, 90 planes, and 5,600 trucks on the move on any given day. It certainly has some of the most generous and dedicated local staff that I have ever met and works with a broad range of local, national and international NGOs and partners to combat global hunger and food insecurity.

I will never forget those days when I have been with WFP in the field. I give my warmest congratulations to David Beasley, and the extraordinary local and international WFP staff, for being awarded the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize. May they carry on their noble mission until the day comes when no child, no man or woman goes to bed hungry and every household in the world is secure in the knowledge that there will always be food on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2020

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I was unfortunately prevented from traveling and unable to make votes on December 9, 2020. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of H.R. 8900 and H.R. 5758.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE JOINT CENTER FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC STUDIES

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2020

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.

Founded and chartered in 1970 as the first of its kind, the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies has since served as America's chief Black think tank inside the beltway. Though diverse in their research and advocacy, the Joint Center has remained a consistent presence in the application and advancement of empirical-based policies supporting strategies to advance Black America.

Madam Speaker, it is common that any resolution addressing the disproportionate impact of a policy on the Black community introduced in this chamber cites a study conducted by the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies. Even I, along with countless Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) colleagues have referenced their reports when legislating and communicating with my constituents. The Joint Center plays a critical role in keeping our leaders properly informed and educated on the issues that Black Americans face daily.

Just last year, the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies was credited for several efforts to achieve diversity in the workforce. Among them include bringing increased awareness to congressional staff diversity, culminating with the establishment of the Office of Diversity and Inclusion in the U.S. House of Representatives; encouraging companies to consider the future of their work through a racial equity lens, resulting in companies like McKinsey & Company. Another example of the fruition of their work would be The Atlantic and the National Skills Coalition releasing, 'The Future of Work' reports and hosting listening sessions. Over the last five decades, they have successfully convened leaders of major cities to discuss workforce modernization in Black communities.

The Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies' work is more relevant and necessary now than ever before. In the face of a crisis disproportionately affecting Black Americans' health outcomes and economic security encompassed by a global pandemic, we must push for a national agenda with viable solutions that address the systemic racism that prompted these inequities.

Madam Speaker, as we celebrate the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies for their successes over the years, let us also reaffirm our commitment as a body to working alongside them and others to advance noble ideas and policies that promote the Black community.

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION DECLARING THAT PUBLIC TRANSIT IS A NATIONAL PRIORITY WHICH REQUIRES FUNDING EQUAL TO THE LEVEL OF HIGHWAY FUNDING

HON. JESÚS G. "CHUY" GARCÍA

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2020

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution declaring that public transit is a national priority which requires funding equal to the level of highway funding along with my colleagues HAKEEM JEFFRIES from New York and AYANNA PRESSLEY from Massachusetts.

Joining us in this introduction are 30 other members from across the country and dozens of organizations invested in ensuring we build a more just, equitable, and sustainable transportation system in America.

The near 40-year precedent of an "80–20" split between highway and transit funding does not reflect our citizens, businesses, and communities' needs for safe, reliable, and convenient public transportation. The split underfunds transit needs leaving too many reliant on deteriorating transit systems with infrequent, inconvenient, and unreliable service.

The 80–20 split was agreed to in 1982, when 1 cent of a 5 cent gas tax increase was dedicated to transit. But since 2008, over $144 billion in taxpayer dollars have supplemented gas tax revenues for highway and transit spending. The user fee is not working as intended, yet the 80–20 funding split persists.

Transit is an essential lifeline for the over one million rural households without a car and millions of Americans of color disproportionately reliant on public transit. 2.8 million essential workers and millions more rely on transit to access their jobs, food, and health care.

In Chicago, CTA trains and Pace Buses are the arteries of our city and they've kept our

people moving—especially frontline workers who keep our country moving despite the raging pandemic.

Rebuilding a stronger, sustainable economy will require robust, reliable, and frequent transit and we must fund transit equitably like the vital public good and toll for economic empowerment that it is.

HONORING PENNY BISIGNANO AS IOWAN OF THE WEEK

HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2020

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, October was National Bullying Prevention Month. As such, I rise today to ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Penny Bisignano for her efforts in bullying prevention in our schools. She has played a key role in supporting anti-bullying training and programming for teachers, parents, and students in Iowa. In fact, our Senate colleagues may remember Penny's 2012 testimony on the issue of bullying.

In 2018 alone, there were more than 835,000 reported incidents of bullying among students ages 12 through 18. As a parent, these numbers are deeply concerning. While the act of bullying is nothing new, the rise of on line communication, social media, and smart phones has provided new and highly accessible environments for aggressions to occur. As a result, bullying has become more subversive and difficult to recognize. Thankfully, we have people like Penny who have coached teachers, students, and parents on what to look for and how these incidents can be prevented.

While working with school counselors, Penny began to see concerning trends in the way children were treating each other. She realized she wanted to help people better understand the seriousness of bullying and how difficult it can be for children to talk about. In 2004, she decided it was time to act and set her sights on championing bullying prevention statewide.

For years, Penny ran the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program in Iowa. The Olweus Program has a comprehensive approach to creating a positive and safe environment in schools. The program's goal is to not only reduce the number of bullying incidents in schools, but also improve relations between students. By addressing antisocial behaviors, this programming has been found to reduce bullying among students as well as truancy and vandalism. Iowa is fortunate to have not only quality programming available, but also so many dedicated organizations working to keep all children safe.

A longtime education consultant, Penny has participated in the Iowa Safe and Supportive Schools Grants Team, focusing on prevention and intervention. She's provided training and networking statewide and facilitated various projects for the improvement of schools and teachers' roles in bullying prevention. Penny also expanded her expertise beyond Iowa by dedicating five years to the Board of Directors for the International Bullying Prevention Association. She eventually founded her own small business, Bisignano Consulting and Coaching, to work on several projects including a study observing possible links between bullying and chronic health conditions.

Penny remains passionate about bullying prevention. In fact, she's come out of retirement three times to continue her work. That speaks volumes about Penny's character and rings true for so many Iowans: if there's a job to do, they won't rest until it's done well. She's now enjoying her fourth (and hopefully final) retirement while still offering expertise whenever asked. Penny hopes her fellow Iowans continue having conversations about bullying so children and adults alike can learn how to better care for one another, and I couldn't agree more. It is my honor to recognize Penny Bisignano as our Iowan of the Week.

CELEBRATING A.G. HEINS COMPANY 100 YEARS OF SUCCESS

HON. TIM BURCHETT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2020

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, American entrepreneurial spirit is the bedrock of our nation's economy, creating good-paying jobs, solving everyday problems and providing the goods and services we rely on. I rise today to celebrate one of East Tennessee's own, the A.G. Heins Company, which rode that entrepreneurial spirit from humble beginnings to 100 years of success.

Currently in its fourth generation of family ownership, the A.G. Heins Company has long provided building materials to the East Tennessee region. The company provides necessary resources to complete projects of all sizes, from individual household repairs to construction at the University of Tennessee.

Staying in business for 100 years is no easy accomplishment, and the A.G. Heins Company persevered through many challenging economic times, such as the Great Depression and the Second World War. The company's history is a reminder that small businesses can grow and innovate even in the face of adversity.

I would like to extend my congratulations to the Heins family as they celebrate their 100th year in business this month, and I wish them many more years of success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2020

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 239, H.R. 8354—Servicemembers and Veterans Initiative Act.

REMEMBERING ANNABELLE BEAUCHAMP

HON. JOE CUNNINGHAM

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2020

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Madam Speaker, I arise today to honor the short life of Annabelle Kristine Beauchamp of Bellevue, Kentucky.

Annabelle was only three years of age when she left us on December 2, 2020. But in that short time on earth, she inspired a multitude of people with her great inner strength, determination, and fearless zest for life. She bedazzled the world as to how anyone so frail could be so powerful.

Born with Downs Syndrome and a badly damaged heart she endured against all odds. Annabelle fought her way through numerous surgeries, and frequent and prolonged stays in the hospital. In the end, it still took a monstrous and murderous worldwide pandemic to vanquish her. With her death-grappling struggle she easily won all of us to her side. As Virgil wrote, "those things doomed to die, touch the heart."

Against the torrent of hardships which beset her from the very beginning, sweet Annabelle gallantly soldiered on through it all. With her captivating smile and determination, she breathed life into the state's ethos of unbridled spirit.

Though faced with many obstacles at birth, Annabelle was richly blessed with two incredibly brave and loving parents—Will and Jessi Beauchamp. They proved to be a match in love and devotion with little Annabelle's undaunted courage.

Anyone blessed to have known Annabelle during her short life knows that she did not intend to leave us so soon. She intended to live, to grow, to thrive and to bless us all for a long time to come. She intended to stay and bless us, no matter what it took. But, tragically, death conquers the earthly vessel in which we live, even if possessed of the vigor and zest as our little heroine. Annabelle left behind a little bit of herself wherever she went. No amount of physical impediments nor human restraints can be retentive to the strength of spirit. She left us with the eternal gift of that spirit. Even now, though freshly gone, she whispers to us in her own unique and endearing voice.

Do not stand at my grave and cry,
I am not dead, I did not die.
I am the stars that shine at night,
I am the sun in morning's light.
Do not stand at my grave and cry,
I do not sleep, I did not die.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DAN F. MOHON

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2020

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Dan Mohon who passed away on December 6, 2020, just four days shy of his 81st birthday. Dan filled his days with hard work and loyal service to his faith, family, friends, and community.

Dan F. Mohon was born in Vernon, Texas, on December 10, 1939, to his parents Walter and Flora Pauline Beach Mohon. Just before his 13th birthday, Dan, as the eldest child, took on the responsibility of caring for his mother and younger siblings, Nanene and Gary, following his father's death. In order to care for his family, Dan worked 32 hours a week while continuing his education.

After Dan graduated from Quanah High School in 1958, he attended Texas Tech University where he graduated with a degree in

real estate and insurance. While at Texas Tech, he met the love of his life, Shirley Manon Hacker of Oklahoma, whom he married on December 22, 1962.

The Mohons moved to Orange, Texas in 1974 along with their two young sons, Monty and Marcus. They didn't have many material possessions upon arriving in Orange, but what they lacked in worldly goods they made up for in determination, loyalty, and love for one another.

Dan was a man who loved deeply and extravagantly, and that devotion sprang from his faith. His love of God was showered on his wife, sons, grandchildren, family, church, and community. He adored people and spent his life showing others what it meant to live joyfully.

As a leader of his community, Dan had the distinction of serving as mayor of two Texas cities—Orange and Pinehurst. In addition to his civic involvement, Dan also served as treasurer of First Baptist Church and as a board member of the Lutcher Stark Theater for 25 years. He also served in various community organizations such as the Greater Orange Area Chamber of Commerce, Lamar State College Foundation, American Red Cross, City of Orange Planning and Zoning Commission, Southeast Texas Regional Planning Commission, Orange Rotary Club, and his favorite, the Orange Lions Club, where he served as president and carnival chairman. Dan was also the proud recipient of the Melvin Jones award, the highest form of recognition for a Lions Club member. A devoted advocate, Dan had perfect attendance at club meetings for more than 47 years.

Along with God, his family, community service, and his many friendships, two other real passions Dan enjoyed were golf and ice cream, both of which he often shared with others.

Dan is survived by his wife of 58 years, Manon; two sons, Monty and Marcus; and ten grandchildren: Joshua, Annabeth, Katharine, Joseph, Isabelle, Jack, Mason, Gray, Reed, and Bliss.

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank Dan Mohon for his unwavering dedication and service to his community. I offer my deepest condolences to his family and friends.

HONORING BARBARA KAIMAN

HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2020

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Mrs. Barbara Kaiman for her outstanding leadership and positivity as she serves those in need in her local community and fights food insecurity in Mills County. Barbara has acted as the food bank director, as well as serving many other roles, for the Mills County Storehouse in Glenwood for more than 20 years—all on an entirely volunteer basis. I'm pleased to name Barbara our Iowan of the Week.

Over her years of service, Barbara has witnessed firsthand the need for assistance—but the past two have been especially hard on families in Mills County. Between the historic flooding across Southwest Iowa in the Spring of 2019 and the current COVID–19 pandemic, she has seen the need for support and assistance increase. In February, the Mills County Storehouse served 185 families. In March, that number jumped up to 240. Barbara has said she is willing to scour the entire area for donations wherever she can get them, including driving for an hour to personally pick up hundreds of baked goods for distribution.

It is Barbara's belief, as she told my team, that the goodness of people always seems to come home. To anyone who has met Barbara, it is immediately apparent that she loves her community and strives to do what she can for those most in need.

Every week, she calls each of her families and reads them a list of what's available in the pantry. And with COVID–19, Barbara has ensured a safe working environment for all of her volunteers and patrons by adapting to the new standards they must meet. Her volunteers have diligently followed safety protocols with masks and gloves. Mills County Storehouse has begun home deliveries for the first time in Barbara's time with them. And they have continued to meet the needs of their community despite increased demand.

It is my distinct honor to name Barbara Kaiman as our Iowan of the Week, and thank her for her commitment to volunteering and ensuring food security for those families most in need. Although we do not know what the next months will bring, we know we can depend on those dedicated Iowans like Barbara to step up to the plate no matter what comes our way.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER AND SERVICE OF WILSON COUNTY COMMISSIONER ALBERT GAMEZ

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2020

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Wilson County Commissioner (Pct. 1) Albert Gamez and his 19 years of service to his community.

Commissioner Gamez was known as a hands-on public servant that took an active interest in all the issues that he faced. He was an individual that was committed to getting the job done and in an efficient manner. There are numerous stories about him that attest to his work. For example, if a storm had passed through the community and caused any damage, he would be there immediately. If there was a fire in the area, he would be sure to show up and make sure that the local firefighters had everything that they needed. In addition to his active approach, he was known for fiscal responsibility and making sure that his county had the funds they needed to make infrastructure improvements.

For his efforts, Commissioner Gomez was honored with several awards and recognitions. He was awarded the Watershed Wise Award by the San Antonio River Authority (SARA), recognized by the Floresville Volunteer Fire Department for 30 years of service, and noted by the Floresville City Council for voicing his concerns regarding the building of a prison in the city. In addition, he was recognized for his work during the floods of 1998 and 2002.

As we move forward, let us take the time to appreciate the work of public servants like Commissioner Gamez and all the individuals who commit themselves to the public good. It is critical that we recognize those who took it upon themselves to improve their community. However, in the words of President John F. Kennedy, ''As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.''

Madam Speaker, I take this opportunity to recognize the career and service of Wilson County Commissioner Albert Gamez.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF TRAVIS COUNTY COMMISSIONER GERALD DAUGHERTY

HON. LLOYD DOGGETT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2020

Mr. DOGGETT. Madam Speaker, today I express appreciation not only for myself but on behalf of so many of our neighbors for the valued service of Travis County Commissioner Gerald Daugherty, who is retiring after serving Precinct 3 honorably for 14 years.

Long before Commissioner Daugherty became an elected official, from the Pleasant Valley Sportsplex to Jack Allen's Kitchen, he made significant contributions to our entertainment and our waistlines as a business leader. We don't always agree. After all, Commissioner Daugherty is a Republican, but I salute him for his integrity and true commitment to public service. And he did get off to a good start long ago giving up the Boston Red Sox to become a fellow Longhorn. Especially during these divisive political times, when we need more bridges, not walls, public servants such as Commissioner Daugherty deserve our gratitude for attempting to bridge the political divide by seeking bipartisan solutions.

Commissioner Daugherty's thoughtful and respectful demeanor, with an eye to detail, benefitted the Travis County Commissioner's Court and Travis County taxpayers. He is respected as an advocate for our veterans and an active supporter of the Travis County Veterans Service office in its commitment to military veterans. service-members, and their families. Importantly, this year he early recognized the threat of this COVID–19 pandemic and offered strong leadership in protecting lives and livelihoods.

Many of us remember his last campaign in 2016 or at least we remember his wife, Charlyn. His ad, which went viral internationally, employed a humorous touch featuring Charlyn and friends listening to him endlessly talking about the obscure details of county policies, with Charlyn wondering what she would do with him were he not reelected and devoting himself to the County. At a time when negativity filled the airwaves. his message was a breath of much needed levity as well as depth. I trust that in addition to time with his great family, Commissioner Daugherty will find a hobby in his retirement, but I also know that he will remain engaged in the affairs of our community.

Commissioner Daugherty leaves office with the esteem of colleagues and departments with whom he worked. I thank him for his service to our community and I wish him well in all his future endeavors.

HONORING ELLEN DUNLAP

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2020

Mr. McGOVERN. Madam Speaker, it is a great honor to rise today in recognition of Ellen Dunlap of West Boylston, Massachusetts, who is stepping down as President of the American Antiquarian Society after 28 extraordinary years in that position.

America's history, Madam Speaker, is our greatest natural resource. It speaks to us across the years and serves as a source of great inspiration and hope for people across this country. It is an acknowledgement of America's triumphs and our imperfections; a reminder of who we are and who we're called to be.

Ellen is the President of the American Antiquarian Society—a remarkable institution in Worcester, Massachusetts founded by Revolutionary War patriot and printer Isaiah Thomas in 1812 and dedicated to preserving our treasured history. The Society serves as an incomparable resource for scholars and historians and a preeminent and comprehensive depository of American history and culture that is unparalleled in size and scope.

As President—the first woman to hold that post, by the way—Ellen has spent her career not only preserving our past, but bringing it to life in a way that truly excites others. Ellen's work and leadership are extraordinary, she has the incredible talent and vision to clarify and animate history so that all of us can better understand and learn from our collective past. She has worked tirelessly to open up the Society's extraordinary archives to a wider audience, including teachers, scholars, artists, and writers. Under her leadership, the Society undertook a massive effort to digitizing their collections. Ellen also spearheaded the construction of a major expansion and renovation of the Society's home at Antiquarian Hall, and has sought to engage the Worcester community in new and exciting ways like free public programs and partnerships with cultural groups.

Ellen has chaired the board of the Worcester Cultural Coalition and the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities, and she has advised many prestigious institutions such as the Library of Congress and George Washington's Mount Vernon. Ellen's vision and leadership earned the American Antiquarian Society a National Humanities Medal from President Barack Obama in 2013.

Madam Speaker, there is so much more I could say about how grateful I am that Ellen has devoted her life to preserving our American story and how lucky we are that the American Antiquarian Society calls Worcester home. But let me end on a personal note to say that Ellen is a treasured friend and a wonderful person, I'm grateful that I've had the privilege of getting to know and work with her, and I know she will continue to give back to our community in the years ahead.

On behalf of the United States Congress, the people of Massachusetts' Second Congressional District, and all the people who will benefit from her incredible work for generations to come, it is my great honor and privilege to recognize Ellen Dunlap and to thank her for her remarkable service to our community, our commonwealth, and our country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAN NEWHOUSE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2020

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Madam Speaker, I regrettably missed a roll call vote as indicated below. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 240.

HONORING NILS BACKSTROM AS IOWAN OF THE WEEK

HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2020

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing an Iowan who embodies the value of a strong work ethic and the dedication it takes to learn a trade. Earlier this month we celebrated National Apprenticeship Week to highlight the impact and value of apprenticeship programs across the United States. To continue that celebration, I am proud to name Nils Backstrom, a union carpenter in Iowa with the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, as our Iowan of the Week for the week of November 20th.

Leaders in the Carpenters Training Program have described Nils as a pillar of what it means to be an active apprentice in their program. He's always the first to volunteer for projects and has been a member of the Apprenticeship Committee since its inception. From the day Nils arrived at training, he has pushed both himself and the instructional team to be the very best at what they do.

The benefits of apprenticeship programs cannot be overstated. They supply Iowa businesses with well-trained employees to get tough jobs done well and on time, and folks like Nils are the backbone of these programs. These professionals are instilled with both the technical skills required of the job and leadership capacity that is so highly sought after. Apprentices complete 7,000 hours of on-the-job training and more than 640 hours of classroom learning.

Supplying a pipeline of highly skilled employees for the future is a critical role apprenticeship programs play in not just Iowa but nationally as well. Ensuring vital industries like information technology, healthcare, building trades, and advanced manufacturing are filled with the right people is crucial for building our future. What's more, the work is rewarding and Iowans in these positions make a good living for their families. The Department of Labor has shown that Registered Apprenticeships have a 94 percent job placement rate at the conclusion of the program—with a highly competitive salary.

The importance of protecting and enhancing our workforce by supporting these apprenticeship programs should be an issue we can all get behind. Nils Backstrom is one of many hundreds of thousands of skilled apprentices across the nation. His spirit and drive, and that of his colleagues, are needed to build towards a better future for all individuals.

I'm grateful to Nils and his fellow apprentices for their dedication to their trade and their contributions to growing our state. We need more individuals like him to join the trade and fill highly in-demand, skilled positions available right here in Iowa. I ask the House to join me in honoring Nils Backstrom as Iowan of the Week.

SUPPORTING H. RES. 823—CONDEMNING OF IRAN'S STATE-SPONSORED PERSECUTION OF ITS BAHA'I MINORITY

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2020

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I'm elated to announce that earlier this week my colleagues and I were able to unanimously pass H. Res. 823, which condemns Iran's state-sponsored religious persecution of its Baha'i minority. Iran has gone too long depriving its citizens the most fundamental of human rights, and I'm proud that we were able to call out Iran and hold them accountable for their atrocities against their own people.

I firmly believe that it is our duty in Congress to stand up to this tyrannical regime, and I have been committed to that cause since I first came to the House of Representatives. One of my first ever bills in Congress, the Iran Human Rights Act of 2007, focused on improving the respect for fundamental human rights of the people of Iran. It specifically recognized the plight and suffering of the Baha'i minority and that they face significant discrimination, including imprisonment, harassment, and intimidation.

The Iranian state's treatment of the Baha'i people is deplorable, and the fact it is motivated simply because of their faith is wholly unacceptable. Religious freedom is an issue that personally touches me, as I have had family and friends who have been victims of religious persecution. This makes me especially conscious of the incredible importance of ensuring that religious freedom is respected around the globe. Religious freedom is a fundamental human right outlined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and all people deserve a government that will respect their rights.

Our darkest moments as a human race have come during times when those who knew better stood silently, making excuses for passivity and allowing injustice and persecution to reign. While I celebrate the passage of H. Res. 823, I recognize there is more we can do. As Co-Chair of the International Religious Freedom Caucus and member of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission's Executive Committee, I stand with the Baha'i people against the injustices wrought against them by the Iranian government, and I call upon the United States and the international community to continue pressuring Iran to cease the persecution of its religious minorities and its violations of basic human rights. The Baha'i people deserve no less.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S7379–S7432

Measures Introduced: Fourteen bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 4997–5010, and S. Res. 799. **Pages S7422–23**

Measures Reported:

S. 2610, to reauthorize certain programs under the Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs of the Department of Energy, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 116–310) **Page S7422**

Measures Passed:

Duck Boat Safety Enhancement Act: Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation was discharged from further consideration of S. 1031, to implement recommendations related to the safety of amphibious passenger vessels, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S7393–95**

Hawley Amendment No. 2698, in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S7394–95**

Purple Book Continuity Act: Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1520, to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the publication of a list of licensed biological products, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S7396–97**

Cornyn (for Alexander) Amendment No. 2699, in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S7396–97**

Organization of American States Legislative Engagement Act: Senate passed S. 1310, to strengthen participation of elected national legislators in the activities of the Organization of American States and reaffirm United States support for Organization of American States human rights and anti-corruption initiatives, after withdrawing the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, and agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S7397–98**

Cornyn (for Wicker/Cardin) Amendment No. 2700, in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S7397–98**

National Impaired Driving Prevention Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 799, designating December 2020 as ''National Impaired Driving Prevention Month''. **Page S7430**

''Six Triple Eight'' Congressional Gold Medal Act: Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs was discharged from further consideration of S. 633, to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the members of the Women's Army Corps who were assigned to the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, known as the ''Six Triple Eight'', and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S7430–31**

Murkowski (for Moran) Amendment No. 2702, in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S7430–31**

Margaret Cochran Corbin Campus of the New York Harbor Health Care System: Senate passed H.R. 1925, to designate the Manhattan Campus of the New York Harbor Health Care System of the Department of Veterans Affairs as the ''Margaret Cochran Corbin Campus of the New York Harbor Health Care System'', after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Page S7431**

Murkowski (for Gillibrand) Amendment No. 2703, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S7431**

Staff Sergeant Alexander W. Conrad Veterans Affairs Health Care Clinic: Committee on Veterans' Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 4983, to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Gilbert, Arizona, as the ''Staff Sergeant Alexander W. Conrad Veterans Affairs Health Care Clinic'', and the bill was then passed. **Page S7431**

Lieutenant Colonel Charles S. Kettles Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center: Committee on Veterans' Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 7347, to designate the medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Ann Arbor, Michigan, as the ''Lieutenant Colonel Charles S. Kettles Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center'', and the bill was then passed. **Page S7431**

Drone Advisory Committee for the 21st Century Act: Senate passed S. 2730, to establish and ensure

an inclusive and transparent Drone Advisory Committee, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S7431–32**

Conference Reports:

National Defense Authorization Act—Agreement: Senate continued consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 6395, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2021 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year.

Pages S7381–93, S7395–96, S7398–S7416

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the conference report to accompany the bill at approximately 9:30 a.m., on Friday, December 11, 2020. **Page S7432**

House Messages:

Great Lakes Environmental Sensitivity Index Act: Senate concurred in the amendment of the House of Representatives to S. 1342, to require the Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere to update periodically the environmental sensitivity index products of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for each coastal area of the Great Lakes. **Page S7397**

Travis W. Atkins Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic: Senate concurred in the amendment of the House of Representatives to S. 900, to designate the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Bozeman, Montana, as the "Travis W. Atkins Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic". **Page S7431**

Nomination Received: Senate received the following nomination:

Mark Van Dyke Holmes, of New York, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years. **Page S7432**

Messages from the House: **Page S7421**

Measures Referred: **Page S7421**

Measures Placed on the Calendar: **Page S7421**

Executive Communications: **Pages S7421–22**

Petitions and Memorials: **Page S7422**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S7422**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S7423–24**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Page S7424**

Additional Statements: **Pages S7419–21**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S7424–29**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S7429**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:10 p.m., until 9:30 a.m. on Friday, December 11, 2020. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S7432.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

COVID–19 VACCINE

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Transportation and Safety concluded a hearing to examine the logistics of transporting a COVID–19 vaccine, after receiving testimony from Rachel L. Levine, Pennsylvania Department of Health Secretary, Harrisburg, on behalf of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials; Richard W. Smith, FedEx Express, Memphis, Tennessee; and Wes Wheeler, UPS Healthcare, Raleigh-Durham, North Carolina.

STOP ACT OVERSIGHT

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations concluded a hearing to examine combatting the opioid crisis, focusing on oversight of the implementation of the STOP Act, after receiving testimony from Eric Green, Director, Office of Specialized and Technical Agencies, Bureau of International Organization Affairs, Department of State; Robert Cintron, Vice President, Logistics, United States Postal Service; and Thomas F. Overacker, Executive Director, Cargo and Conveyance Security, Office of Field Operations, Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Thomas L. Kirsch II, of Indiana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit, Charles Edward Atchley, Jr., and Katherine A. Crytzer, both to be a United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Tennessee, Joseph Dawson III, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina, and Zachary N. Somers, of the District of Columbia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims.

PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: Committee concluded a hearing to examine small business in crisis, focusing on the 2020 Paycheck Protection Program and its future, including S. 4818, to provide assistance to small businesses affected by COVID–19, S. 3814, to establish a loan program for

businesses affected by COVID–19 and to extend the loan forgiveness period for paycheck protection program loans made to the hardest hit businesses, and S. 4227, to improve access to economic injury disaster loans and emergency advances under the CARES Act, after receiving testimony from Douglas Holtz-Eakin, American Action Forum, and Dafina Williams, Opportunity Finance Network, both of Washington, D.C.; Thomas G. Zernick, First Home Bank, St. Petersburg, Florida; and Iman McFarland, 21st Century Expo Group, Inc., Capitol Heights, Maryland.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 21 public bills, H.R. 8931–8951; and 5 resolutions, H. Res. 1256–1260, were introduced. **Pages H7147–48**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H7148–49**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 5001, to amend the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act to clarify that the definition of a debt collector includes, in all cases, a person in a business the principal purpose of which is the enforcement of security interests, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–638); and

Supplemental report on H.R. 5828, to support remediation of illicit cross-border tunnels, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 116–471, Part 2).

Page H7146

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Driftnet Modernization and Bycatch Reduction Act: S. 906, to improve the management of driftnet fishing, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 283 yeas to 105 nays, Roll No. 242; **Pages H7115–18, H7126–27**

Directing the Secretary of the Interior to develop a plan for the removal of the monument to Robert E. Lee at the Antietam National Battlefield: H.R. 970, amended, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to develop a plan for the removal of the monument to Robert E. Lee at the Antietam National Battlefield; **Pages H7118–19**

Preserving United States fishing heritage through a national program dedicated to training and assisting the next generation of commercial fishermen: H.R. 1240, amended, to preserve United States fishing heritage through a national program dedicated to training and assisting the next generation of commercial fishermen; **Pages H7119–21**

Directing the Director of the Bureau of Land Management to study the effects of drone incursions on wildfire suppression: H.R. 5040, amended, to direct the Director of the Bureau of Land Management to study the effects of drone incursions on wildfire suppression, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 382 yeas to 6 nays, Roll No. 243;

Pages H7121–22, H7127–28

Modifying the boundary of the Rocky Mountain National Park: H.R. 5458, to modify the boundary of the Rocky Mountain National Park;

Pages H7122–23

Authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to correct a land ownership error within the boundary of Rocky Mountain National Park; H.R. 5459, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to correct a land ownership error within the boundary of Rocky Mountain National Park; **Pages H7123–24**

Expanding the boundary of Saguaro National Park, to study additional land for future adjustments to the boundary of the park: H.R. 7098, amended, to expand the boundary of Saguaro National Park, to study additional land for future adjustments to the boundary of the park;

Pages H7124–25

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: ''To expand the boundary of Saguaro National Park, to authorize a study of additional land for potential inclusion in the park, and for other purposes.''; and

Page H7125

Authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the Commonwealth of Virginia or the District of Columbia certain Federal land under the administrative jurisdiction of the National Park Service for the construction of rail and other infrastructure: H.R. 7489, amended, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the Commonwealth of Virginia or the District of Columbia certain Federal land under the administrative jurisdiction of the National Park Service for the construction of rail and other infrastructure. **Pages H7125–26**

Securing America's Ports Act: The House agreed to take from the Speaker's table and concur in the Senate amendments to H.R. 5273, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop a plan to

increase to 100 percent the rates of scanning of commercial and passenger vehicles entering the United States at land ports of entry along the border using large-scale non-intrusive inspection systems to enhance border security. **Pages H7128–29**

Permission to File Report: Agreed by unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security be authorized to file a supplemental report on H.R. 5828, to support remediation of illicit cross-border tunnels. **Page H7129**

Designating room H–150 of the United States Capitol as "The Joseph H. Rainey Room" to honor the historic life, career, and legacy of Representative Joseph Rainey of South Carolina on the 150th anniversary of his seating as a member of the House of Representatives: The House agreed to discharge from committee and agree to H. Res. 1253, designating room H–150 of the United States Capitol as "The Joseph H. Rainey Room" to honor the historic life, career, and legacy of Representative Joseph Rainey of South Carolina on the 150th anniversary of his seating as a member of the House of Representatives. **Pages H7129–30**

Correcting the enrollment of S. 1869: The House agreed to take from the Speaker's table and agree to S. Con. Res. 51, correcting the enrollment of S. 1869. **Page H7130**

Orange Book Transparency Act: The House agreed to take from the Speaker's table and concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 1503, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act regarding the list under section 505(j)(7) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act. **Pages H7130–31**

Safeguarding Therapeutics Act: The House agreed to take from the Speaker's table and concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 5663, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to give authority to the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, to destroy counterfeit devices. **Page H7131**

Amending title XXIX of the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the program under such title relating to lifespan respite care: The House agreed to discharge from committee and pass H.R. 8906, to amend title XXIX of the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the program under such title relating to lifespan respite care. **Page H7131**

Scarlett's Sunshine on Sudden Unexpected Death Act: The House agreed to take from the Speaker's table and pass S. 1130, to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve the health of children and help better understand and enhance awareness about unexpected sudden death in early life, as amended by Representative Dingell. **Pages H7132–33**

Honoring Rosalynn Smith Carter's 50 years of mental health advocacy: The House agreed to discharge from committee and agree to H. Res. 1181, honoring Rosalynn Smith Carter's 50 years of mental health advocacy, as amended by Representative Dingell. **Pages H7133–34**

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14 Walnut Street in Bordentown, New Jersey, as the "Clara Barton Post Office Building": The House agreed to discharge from committee and pass H.R. 4988, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14 Walnut Street in Bordentown, New Jersey, as the "Clara Barton Post Office Building". **Pages H7134–35**

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 476 East Main Street in Galesburg, Illinois, as the "Senior Airman Daniel Miller Post Office Building": The House agreed to discharge from committee and pass H.R. 5123, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 476 East Main Street in Galesburg, Illinois, as the "Senior Airman Daniel Miller Post Office Building". **Page H7135**

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 599 East Genesse Street in Fayetteville, New York, as the "George H. Bacel Post Office Building": The House agreed to discharge from committee and pass H.R. 5451, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 599 East Genesse Street in Fayetteville, New York, as the "George H. Bacel Post Office Building". **Page H7135**

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4650 East Rosedale Street in Fort Worth, Texas, as the "Dionne Phillips Bagsby Post Office Building": The House agreed to discharge from committee and pass H.R. 5562, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4650 East Rosedale Street in Fort Worth, Texas, as the "Dionne Phillips Bagsby Post Office Building". **Page H7135**

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 500 Delaware Avenue, Suite 1, in Wilmington, Delaware, as the "Mary Ann Shadd Cary Post Office": The House agreed to discharge from committee and pass H.R. 5972, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 500 Delaware Avenue, Suite 1, in Wilmington, Delaware, as the "Mary Ann Shadd Cary Post Office". **Page H7135**

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4150 Chicago Avenue in Riverside, California, as the "Woodie Rucker-

Hughes Post Office Building": The House agreed to discharge from committee and pass H.R. 5983, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4150 Chicago Avenue in Riverside, California, as the "Woodie Rucker-Hughes Post Office Building". **Page H7135**

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14955 West Bell Road in Surprise, Arizona, as the "Marc Lee Memorial Post Office Building": The House agreed to discharge from committee and pass H.R. 6016, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14955 West Bell Road in Surprise, Arizona, as the "Marc Lee Memorial Post Office Building". **Pages H7135–36**

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1585 Yanceyville Street, Greensboro, North Carolina, as the "J. Howard Coble Post Office Building": The House agreed to discharge from committee and pass H.R. 6161, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1585 Yanceyville Street, Greensboro, North Carolina, as the "J. Howard Coble Post Office Building". **Page H7136**

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 509 Fairhope Avenue in Fairhope, Alabama, as the "William 'Jack' Jackson Edwards III Post Office Building": The House agreed to discharge from committee and pass H.R. 6418, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 509 Fairhope Avenue in Fairhope, Alabama, as the "William 'Jack' Jackson Edwards III Post Office Building". **Page H7136**

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 111 James Street in Reidsville, Georgia, as the "Senator Jack Hill Post Office Building": The House agreed to discharge from committee and pass H.R. 7088, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 111 James Street in Reidsville, Georgia, as the "Senator Jack Hill Post Office Building". **Page H7136**

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 101 South 16th Street in Clarinda, Iowa, as the "Jessie Field Shambaugh Post Office Building": The House agreed to discharge from committee and pass H.R. 7502, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 101 South 16th Street in Clarinda, Iowa, as the "Jessie Field Shambaugh Post Office Building". **Page H7136**

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3519 East Walnut Street in Pearland, Texas, as the "Tom Reid Post Office Building": The House agreed to discharge from committee and pass H.R. 7810, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3519 East Walnut Street in Pearland, Texas, as the "Tom Reid Post Office Building". **Page H7136**

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4755 Southeast Dixie Highway in Port Salerno, Florida, as the "Joseph Bullock Post Office Building": The House agreed to discharge from committee and pass H.R. 8611, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4755 Southeast Dixie Highway in Port Salerno, Florida, as the "Joseph Bullock Post Office Building". **Pages H7136–37**

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 311 West Wisconsin Avenue in Tomahawk, Wisconsin, as the "Einar 'Sarge' H. Ingman, Jr. Post Office Building": The House agreed to take from the Speaker's table and pass S. 3257, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 311 West Wisconsin Avenue in Tomahawk, Wisconsin, as the "Einar 'Sarge' H. Ingman, Jr. Post Office Building". **Page H7137**

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2600 Wesley Street in Greenville, Texas, as the "Audie Murphy Post Office Building": The House agreed to take from the Speaker's table and pass S. 3461, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2600 Wesley Street in Greenville, Texas, as the "Audie Murphy Post Office Building". **Page H7137**

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 909 West Holiday Drive in Fate, Texas, as the "Ralph Hall Post Office": The House agreed to take from the Speaker's table and pass S. 3462, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 909 West Holiday Drive in Fate, Texas, as the "Ralph Hall Post Office". **Page H7137**

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 104 East Main Street in Port Washington, Wisconsin, as the "Joseph G. Demler Post Office": The House agreed to take from the Speaker's table and pass S. 4126, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 104 East Main Street in Port Washington, Wisconsin, as the "Joseph G. Demler Post Office". **Page H7137**

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 440 Arapahoe Street in Thermopolis, Wyoming, as the "Robert L. Brown Post Office": The House agreed to take

from the Speaker's table and pass S. 4684, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 440 Arapahoe Street in Thermopolis, Wyoming, as the ''Robert L. Brown Post Office''.

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Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H2126–27 and H2127–28.

Adjournment: The House met at 9 a.m. and adjourned at 2:06 p.m.

Committee Meetings

TAIWAN AND THE UNITED STATES: ENDURING BONDS IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and Nonproliferation held a hearing entitled ''Taiwan and the United States: Enduring Bonds in the Face of Adversity''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

THE ELEMENTS OF PRESIDENTIAL TRANSITIONS

Committee on Oversight and Reform: Subcommittee on Government Operations held a hearing entitled ''The Elements of Presidential Transitions''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2020

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

No hearings are scheduled.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

9:30 a.m., Friday, December 11

Senate Chamber

Program for Friday: Senate will continue consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 6395, National Defense Authorization Act, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture thereon at 10:30 a.m.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

1:30 p.m., Monday, December 14

House Chamber

Program for Monday: House will meet in Pro Forma session at 1:30 p.m.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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